



Lesley McSpadden, the mother of Michael Brown, wearing sunglasses, reacts as she listens to the announcement of the grand jury decision Monday, Nov. 24, 2014, in Ferguson, Mo. A grand jury has decided not to indict Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson in the death of Michael Brown, the unarmed, black 18-year-old whose fatal shooting sparked sometimes violent protests.

(AP Photo/Charlie Riedel)

Grand Jury Won't Indict Cop in Ferguson Shooting

DAVID A. LIEB
ANDALE GROSS
Associated Press
FERGUSON, Missouri (AP) — A grand jury decided not to indict a Ferguson police officer in the death of Michael Brown, the unarmed, black 18-year-old whose

fatal shooting by a white officer sparked weeks of sometimes-violent protests and exposed deep racial tension between many African-Americans and police. St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Bob McCulloch announced the decision

Monday evening that the grand jury decided not to indict officer Darren Wilson for the August shooting, prompting an angry response from demonstrators and pleas from President Barack Obama and Brown's family for peaceful

protests. Wilson's fatal shooting of Brown after an Aug. 9 confrontation reignited a debate over how police treat young African-American men and focused attention on long-simmering racial tensions in Ferguson and

around the U.S. Rioting occurred the following night, protests erupted for weeks and police responded with armored vehicles and tear gas.

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THE 2014 DIVI ARUBA BEACH TENNIS OPEN IS A SMASH HIT
Page 13



Iran nuclear talks stumble, extended until July

MATTHEW LEE
GEORGE JAHN
Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — A yearlong effort to seal a nuclear deal with Iran fizzled Monday, leaving the U.S. and its allies little choice but to declare a seven-month extension in hopes that a new deadline will be enough to achieve what a decade of negotiations have failed to do — limit Tehran's ability to make a nuclear weapon.

Pushback from critics in Congress followed almost immediately, with powerful Republicans saying that Iran is merely trying to buy

enough votes to overturn an expected veto by President Barack Obama.

"The one thing the Iranians didn't have was time, and now they have 219 days," lamented Sen. Mark Kirk, an Illinois Republican whose work with Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez of New Jersey on oil sanctions helped cripple Iran's economy and drive it to the negotiating table.

Kirk pledged to come forward with a new bipartisan sanctions package after the Republican takeover of the Senate. Menendez suggested similar action, saying he'd work "to en-

ough of giving talks an extra "few months to be able to proceed without sending messages that might be misinterpreted."

In Tehran, hard-liners fearful that their country will give away more than it gets under any final deal may increase pressure on Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to break off talks. Still, the latest extension appears to have the approval of Khamenei, the ultimate arbiter in his country. Positive comments by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani reflected Khamenei's backing.

"Many gaps have been

that into precise definitions of what will happen on the ground," he said.

A joint statement read by Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and EU official Catherine Ashton, speaking for the six powers negotiating with Iran, said the sides "remain convinced that ... a comprehensive solution can be reached."

Even the new deadline was not immediately clear, with negotiators saying it was July 1, and Hammond fixing it at June 30.

Among the issues the two sides are haggling over are how many — and



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry addresses the media after the closed-door nuclear talks with Iran, in Vienna, Austria, Monday, Nov. 24, 2014. Facing still significant differences between the U.S. and Iran, negotiators gave up on last-minute efforts to get a nuclear deal by the Monday deadline and extended their talks for another seven months. The move gives both sides breathing space to work out an agreement but may be badly received by domestic sceptics, since it extends more than a decade of diplomatic efforts to curb Iran's nuclear prowess.
(AP Photo/Ronald Zak)

time.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and other Western foreign ministers defended the add-on time as the best way forward. "We would be fools to walk away," Kerry declared.

But a week of tough maneuvering appeared to have achieved little more than agreement to keep on talking. Negotiators will now strive to nail down by March 1 what Iran and the six world powers it is negotiating with must do, and by when. A final agreement is meant to follow four months later.

Members of the new Republican-controlled Congress to be sworn in early next year threatened to impose additional sanctions on Iran and may well have

sure that Iran comprehends that we will not ever permit it to become a threshold nuclear state."

The U.S. administration strongly opposes additional sanctions because it fears it will push Tehran away from the table.

Monday's decision already appeared to benefit Iran. Its nuclear program is left frozen but intact, without any of the cuts sought by the U.S. And while the negotiations continue, so will monthly dole-outs of \$700 million in frozen funds that began under the temporary nuclear deal agreed on late last year that led to the present talks.

Kerry called for patience, saying he hoped congressional skeptics would "come to see the wisdom"

eliminated," Rouhani said in a statement, though he added the sides were "still some distance" from a deal. U.S.-Iran relations have warmed since Rouhani took office last year and the thaw has extended to the nuclear negotiations. Still, Rouhani has struggled to sell the idea of negotiating with arch-foe America to hard-liners at home and he pledged "ultimate victory" for the Islamic Republic in securing a favorable agreement.

British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond told reporters the sides were giving themselves until March to agree on a text "that sets out in layman's language what we have agreed to do." Experts then will have four months to "translate

what kind — of centrifuges Iran should be allowed to have. The machines can enrich uranium from low reactor-fuel level up to grades used to build the core of a nuclear weapon. Washington wants deeper and more lasting cuts in the program than Tehran is willing to give.

The U.S. initially wanted Iran to slash its centrifuges to less than 2,000 from the nearly 10,000 it now runs, but says it can accept 4,500 if Tehran agrees to other conditions meant to slow its ability to turn toward making weapons-grade uranium. Iran, which came to the talks in February insisting it be allowed to keep its present program, says it can reduce to 8,000. □

UK: 'Severe' terror threat requires new powers

JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain faces its greatest-ever threat from terrorism, the interior minister said Monday, announcing measures to control suspects, strengthen online scrutiny and prevent insurance companies from paying terrorist ransoms.

Home Secretary Theresa May said the advance of the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq had given "energy and a renewed sense of purpose" to Islamic radicals in Britain, creating a threat more serious "than at any time before or since 9/11."

She said that British authorities have foiled 40 terrorist plots since the July 2005 London transit bombings, which killed 52 people. In August, Britain raised its threat level from "substantial" to "severe," indicating an attack is highly likely.

May said that a new counterterrorism bill, to be introduced in Parliament on Wednesday, will give police and border guards the power to seize passports and tickets from people suspected of planning to travel abroad for terrorist purposes.

Authorities say more than 500 Britons have traveled to fight in Syria. May said some fighters would be temporarily barred from returning to ensure "you will only be allowed to come home on our terms."

She said the bill would clarify the current law to stop British insurance companies reimbursing families who have paid ransoms to free hostages held by terrorists. Britain argues that paying such ransoms places more people at risk.

The bill also requires schools and prisons to introduce anti-radicalization measures and revives contentious cyber-snooping plans. May said it would make Internet providers retain IP address data to identify individual computer users. □



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Flournoy heads shortlist of candidates to succeed Hagel

BRADLEY KLAPPER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Michele Flournoy, formerly the Pentagon's policy chief and among President Barack Obama's more hawkish advisers, could be in line to become the first woman to lead the U.S. military after Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel's resignation.

Passed over by Obama for the job 20 months ago, Flournoy heads a short list of candidates to direct the war against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, and help Afghanistan fight the Taliban insurgency.

Other contenders include Ashton Carter, until last year the Pentagon's No. 2-ranked official, and Robert Work, Hagel's current deputy.

Sen. Jack Reed isn't interested in the job, a spokesman said Monday. Obama had mentioned Reed on Monday as he recounted a 2008 trip to Afghanistan with the Democrat and Hagel, then a Republican senator.

At the White House, Obama said Hagel would stay on until the Senate confirms a successor. No timeframe for the transition was given.

Flournoy, among the most senior female officials in Pentagon history, has a long history with Obama. After winning the 2008 election, President-elect Obama asked her to co-lead his transition team at the Defense Department. She then kept a relatively low profile as undersecretary of defense for policy, engaged in efforts to end the war in Iraq, reinvigorate the military campaign in Afghanistan and redesign U.S. defense strategy to deal with severe budget cuts.

Always loyal to the president publicly, Flournoy often played the role of principled objector in closed-door meetings, differing on matters such as the size and scope of the Afghan surge with Vice President Joe Biden and Tom Donilon, Obama's former national security adviser. Her suggestions were often more muscular in approach than those Obama authorized.

When she left office in December 2011, Flournoy cited strains on her family life after three years in one of the most demanding national security jobs in Washington. She is married and has three children.

At the same time, Flournoy, who is now 53, said she hoped to return to government service one day.

And when Defense Secretary Leon Panetta stepped

those mentioned for the post. Obama opted for



This photo shows former U.S. Defense Undersecretary Michele Flournoy, preparing for a bilateral meeting in Beijing, China. Flournoy, formerly the Pentagon's policy chief and among President Obama's more hawkish advisers, could be in line to become the first woman to lead the U.S. military after Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel's resignation.

(AP Photo/Andy Wong)

down after Obama's re-election, she was among

Hagel, however. Flournoy would likely have a rela-

tively easy confirmation in the new Republican-led Senate. For the last three years, Flournoy has served as chief executive of the Center for a New American Security, a think tank she co-founded in 2007. Through a spokesman Monday, she declined a request for an interview.

A person close to Flournoy said she wants to be defense secretary, but has some concerns about the job. Obama and a small group of White House advisers have kept tight control over matters of national security, often frustrating more apolitical figures such as former Defense Secretary Bob Gates. The person wasn't authorized to speak publicly about Flournoy's thinking and demanded anonymity. □

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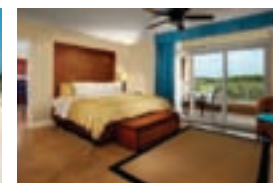
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Grand Jury Won't Indict Cop in Ferguson Shooting

Continued from front

Just minutes after the announcement, St. Louis County police used a bullhorn to order a crowd outside the Ferguson Police Department to disperse, saying it had become an unlawful assembly. Protesters continued to hug the barricade and taunt police, sometimes with expletives. Some chanted "murderer." Minutes later, four gunshots were heard down the street. McCulloch stressed that the grand jurors were "the only people who heard every witness ... and every piece of evidence." He said many witnesses presented conflicting statements that ultimately were inconsistent with the physical evidence. "These grand jurors poured their hearts and soul into this process," he said.

As McCulloch was reading his statement, a crowd gathered around a car

from which it was being broadcast on a stereo. When the decision was announced, Brown's mother, Lesley McSpadden, who was sitting atop the car, burst into tears and began screaming before being whisked away by supporters. The crowd erupted in anger, converging on the barricade where police in

riot gear were standing. They pushed down the barricade and began pelting police with items, including a bullhorn. Police stood their ground.

Brown's family released a statement saying they were "profoundly disappointed" in the decision but asked that the public "channel your frustration in ways that will make a positive change. We need to work together to fix the system that allowed this to happen." The U.S. Justice Department is conducting a separate investigation into possible civil rights violations that could result in federal charges. The department also has launched a broad probe into the Ferguson Police Department, looking for patterns of discrimination. A grand jury of nine white and three black members had met weekly since Aug. 20 to consider evidence, hearing from 60 witnesses. Brown's shooting inflamed tensions in the predominantly black St. Louis suburb that is patrolled by an overwhelmingly white police force. □



A protester squirts lighter fluid on a police car as the car windows are shattered near the Ferguson Police Department after the announcement of the grand jury decision not to indict police officer Darren Wilson in the fatal shooting of Michael Brown, an unarmed black 18-year-old, Monday, Nov. 24, 2014, in Ferguson, Mo

(AP Photo/Charlie Riedel)

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Cleveland Police: Video of officer shooting boy is 'clear'

JOHN P. COYNE
KANTELE FRANKO
Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — A officer was less than 10 feet (3 meters) away when he fatally shot a 12-year-old boy carrying a pellet gun near a playground, and video of the shooting is clear about what happened, police said Monday.

The boy was confronted Saturday by officers responding to an emergency call about a male who appeared to be pulling a gun in and out of his pants. The caller said the gun was "probably fake," then added, "I don't know if it's real or not." Deputy Chief Edward Tomba said Monday that he didn't know whether a dispatcher shared that information with responding officers.

The president of the Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association has said the officers weren't told the caller thought the gun might be fake.

Police say Tamir Rice, who died Sunday, had an "airsoft" gun that appeared indistinguishable from a real firearm. Airsoft guns fire spherical plastic pellets and have orange tips to show they aren't real firearms, but police said the one the boy had didn't have the bright safety indicator.

Authorities said the boy was told to raise his hands and was shot when he pulled the pellet gun from his waistband, though he



Activist Art McCoy holds a photo of Tamir Rice before a protest march at Cudell Park in Cleveland, Monday, Nov. 24, 2014. The 12-year-old was fatally shot by a Cleveland police officer Saturday after he reportedly pulled a replica gun at the city park.

(AP Photo/Mark Duncan)

hadn't pointed it at police or made verbal threats. "Our officers at times are

required to make critical decisions in a split second," Chief Calvin Williams said.

"Unfortunately this is one of those times," Tomba said surveillance

video of the shooting is "very clear" about what occurred, but he wouldn't discuss details of what it shows.

People representing the boy's family viewed the video Monday, but police didn't release it publicly because it is considered evidence and because they want to be sensitive to the family, the community and the officer, who is distraught, officials said.

The shooting has led to an investigation of the officer's use of force. It also contributed to a state lawmaker's plan to propose legislation requiring all BB guns, air rifles and airsoft guns sold in Ohio to be brightly colored or have prominent fluorescent strips.

Once the investigation is complete, the case will be presented to a grand jury to decide whether any criminal charges should be brought, county Prosecutor Timothy McGinty said. □

Police: 1 suspect confessed to killing 5 women

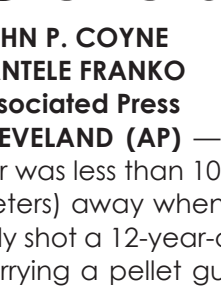
GILLIAN FLACCUS
AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

SANTA ANA, California (AP) — One of two registered sex offenders charged with raping and killing four California women confessed to a police detective after his arrest earlier this year, testimony from a grand jury transcript unsealed Monday revealed.


Steven Dean Gordon, 45, also told police he and co-defendant Frank Cano killed a fifth woman who has never been identified. The confession by Gordon came during an interview that lasted more than 13 hours the day after his arrest, police Detective Julissa Trapp told the grand jury. The grand jury returned four murder and rape indict-

ments against Gordon, 45, and co-defendant Frank Cano, 28. Both defendants have pleaded not guilty. Phone and email messages left for Cano's attorney, Houman Fakhimi, and Gordon's attorney, Denise Gragg, were not immediately returned. The crimes, carried out in during a five-month period ending in March, attract-


ed widespread attention when it was revealed that the suspects, both convicted sex offenders who were homeless, were wearing electronic tracking anklets. In her testimony about Gordon's interview, Trapp said he began by saying Cano didn't know of Gordon's plans to strangle the women. □



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Fears of major flooding in snowbound Buffalo ease

CAROLYN THOMPSON

DAVID KLEPPER

Associated Press

BUFFALO, New York (AP) —

Fears of disastrous flooding from a rapid meltdown of the Buffalo area's historic snowfall eased on Monday, but high winds became a menace, threatening to knock down trees and power lines.

Forecasters, meanwhile, defended the National Weather Service following criticism from Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who accused the agency of failing to anticipate how bad Buffalo's epic snowstorm would be. Cuomo, in the region for a sixth straight day, said state-deployed pumps and sandbags were in place as rain and temperatures over 60 (16 Celsius) rapidly melted the snow.

Residents shoveled snow in T-shirts against the back-drip of white drifts.

By late morning, minor to moderate flooding was reported in several creeks, but nearby homes were largely spared, and the sewers in Buffalo and elsewhere were handling the runoff.

The snowfall across the Buffalo area reached up to 7.5 feet (2.3 meters), depending on where the bands of snow coming off Lake Erie hit hardest.

Forecasters said the potential for flooding remained through Wednesday morning.

The new threat, he said, was wind — gusts up to 65 mph (105 kph), with the potential to uproot trees from the soggy ground and knock out power needed



New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, left, walks along a watery driveway while surveying the aftermath of last week's lake-effect snowstorms on Monday, Nov. 24, 2014, in West Seneca, N.Y. (AP Photo/Mike Groll)

to operate homeowners' basement sump pumps. At a news conference, the

governor said he hadn't intended to upset forecasters when he said over the weekend that the weather service was "off" on its predictions for the storm.

Most snow-affected school districts remain closed Monday, and at least four called off classes for the entire Thanksgiving week. □



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American Catholic officials see Pope Francis visit as a rebirth

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Philadelphia's archbishop said Monday that hosting Pope Francis in the city next year during his first U.S. visit as pontiff could foster a "re-birth" for an archdiocese that has struggled with financial problems and sex abuse scandals during the last decade.

Archbishop Charles Chaput told reporters that the pope's visit for the World Meeting of Families could be a blessing for the archdiocese, which has been dogged by scandals, including one involving the first U.S. church official charged with mishandling abuse complaints against clergy.

"I'm really enthusiastic about this now, and it could be a rebirth of the

diocese, and I'm grateful for the opportunity," Chaput said.

Several priests in the archdiocese have been convicted of child sex abuse or charged with it. Two grand jury reports since 2005 unearthed scores of complaints kept in secret archives at the archdiocese for years.

The World Meeting of Families is scheduled for Sept. 22 to Sept. 27. It will feature workshops, lectures and an outdoor Mass. Officials predict that as many as 2 million people could attend it.

Chaput said he heard more than two years ago that it was possible for then-Pope Benedict XVI to travel to Philadelphia for the event. □

US Financial Front:

Merry marijuana: Pot sellers woo holiday shoppers

DENVER (AP) — The burgeoning marijuana industry in Colorado is scrambling to get a piece of the holiday shopping dollar.

Dispensaries in many states have been offering holiday specials for medical customers for years — but this first season of open-to-all-adults marijuana sales in some states means pot shops are using more of the tricks used by traditional retailers to attract holiday shoppers.

Just as traditional retailers sell some items below cost to drive traffic and attract sales. Recreational marijuana retailers are doing the same.

The Grass Station in Denver is selling an 1 ounce (28 gram) of marijuana for \$50 — about a fifth of the cost of the next-cheapest strain at the Colorado dispensary — to the first 16 customers in line Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

That works out to less than \$1 per marijuana cigarette for the ambitious early-rising pot shopper. Owner Ryan Fox says his Black Friday pot is decent quality,

and says he's selling below cost to attract attention and pick up some new customers. As Colorado dispensaries approach a year of being able to sell to all adults over 21, not just card-carrying medical patients, Fox says retailers have to do more than just sell pot to get public attention. Many dispensaries this time of year resemble a Starbucks at the mall, with holiday spices and festive music in the air. One of the state's largest edible-pot makers, Sweet Grass Kitchen, debuted a new miniature pumpkin pie that delivers about as much punch as a medium-sized marijuana cigarette.

The pie joins holiday-spiced teas, minty pot confections and cannabis-infused honey oil for those who want to bake their own pot goodies at home.

Even some edibles makers that specialize in savory foods, not sweets, are putting out some sugary items for the holidays.

"It just tastes too good, we had to do it," Better Baked owner Deloise Vaden said



Bud tenders from left John Satterfield, Maxwell Bradford and Emma Attolini decorate a Christmas tree in holiday display at a recreational marijuana shop in northwest Denver. Colorado's marijuana retailers are taking a page out of the playbook of traditional retailers to market their products to holiday shoppers.

of her company's holiday line of cannabis-infused sweet-potato and pumpkin pies. The Growing Kitch-

(AP Photo/David Zalubowski)

en is making \$49.99 gift sets for both the medical and recreational pot user.

The sets include the edible-

pot maker's new Mighty Mint cookie, a pot-infused confection new for the holiday shopping season, along with marijuana-infused salves for muscles sore from the ski slopes. Other dispensaries are offering free gift totes and stockings with purchases. And for the shopper who wants to give pot but doesn't know how the recipient likes to get high, Colorado's 300 or so recreational dispensaries so far have been able to issue only handwritten gift certificates. That's because banking regulations prohibit major credit cards companies from being able to back marijuana-related gift cards the way they do for other retailers. □

Budweiser:

Clydesdales get holiday pink slip

NEW YORK (AP) — Budweiser is putting its Clydesdales out to pasture for the holidays.

The country's No. 3 beer brand said the horses will not play a role in its traditional advertising for the season, although the company added later Monday that they will be featured in spots promoting responsible drinking. Anheuser-Busch InBev also said the Clydesdales will return to be part of its upcoming Super Bowl ads.

"The Clydesdales play a strong role for the brand, representing Budweiser quality and care for more than 80 years. As icons of the brand — and relevant symbols of integrity, perfection and team spirit for all generations — they are important to the brand and our campaigns," Anheuser-Busch said in a statement Monday.

The decision not to feature the Clydesdales in holiday ads was first reported by The Wall Street Journal.

The change comes as Budweiser's share of the U.S. beer market has declined since hitting its peak in 1988. According to Beer Marketer's Insights, Budweiser had 7.6 percent of the market last year, down from 14.4 percent a decade ago. The erosion has been the result of the growing popularity of light and craft beers, said Eric Shepard, executive editor of the industry tracker.

"You look around, and we have this huge group of young drinkers, almost half of them have never tried the brand," Shepard said. Ahead of Thanksgiving, Budweiser has been running ads for its "Holiday Crates" that includes 18-packs of Budweiser bottles. □

Thursday, November 27, 2014

Thanksgiving Menu

Appetizers

Sweet Pear and Blue Cheese Salad
Crispy mix greens served with sweet pear, blue cheese crumbles and dressed with honey orange dressing

Or

Creamy Pumpkin Cinnamon Soup
Garnish with caramelized onion

Pomegranate Sherbet
Refreshing Pomegranate sherbet served with a dash of champagne

Entrée

Slow Roasted Turkey and Marinated Grilled Flank Steak
House-made stuffing, sautéed seasonal veggies, candied mix fruits, traditional Turkey gravy accompanied by slide marinated grilled Flank steak served with Green salsa

Dessert

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Utah ski industry gets jump start from Vail

BRADY McCOMBS
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Skiers and snowboarders traveling to Utah this winter will find the same jagged mounting peaks looming just east of Salt Lake City and many familiar trails at the state's 15 resorts. But they may also notice a few signs of the significant changes that occurred in the offseason.

The most prominent was Vail Resorts Inc.'s purchase of the state's largest ski area, Park City Mountain Resort. The \$182.5 million acquisition resolved a messy legal battle between Vail and Powdr Corp. that threatened to cancel the ski season at the resort. It also paved the way for the creation of what could

be the country's largest ski area. Vail plans to build a connecting chair lift to link Park City Mountain Resort and the adjacent Canyons Resort it already owns in the 2015-2016 season. This season, skiers can buy one ticket good for both, allowing people to hop-scotch between both, even on the same day.

Vail's expanding footprint in Utah also means that people who buy the company's well-known Epic Pass can now ski at two Utah resorts among the 22 global ski areas included in the pass, sold for \$769 for adults. An Epic Local Pass that offers access to a smaller list of U.S. resorts is being sold for \$589 for adults.

"That shines a pretty bright



A man snowboards during at Brighton Ski Resort opening day for the 2014/15 winter season, in Big Cottonwood Canyon Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014, in Brighton, Utah. Skiers and snowboarders traveling to Utah this winter will find the same jagged mounting peaks looming just east of Salt Lake City and many familiar trails at the state's 15 resorts.

(AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

spotlight on Utah," said Nathan Rafferty, president of the trade group Ski Utah. "We're on the cusp of Utah

ski industry 3.0 with a new and exciting few years coming up for us."

The Vail purchase wasn't

the only action during the busy summer and fall.

Deer Valley Resort bought Solitude Mountain Resort and will take it over in 2015. Powdr Corp. executive Ian Cumming purchased the majority interest of Solitude Mountain Resort. Nordic Valley Resort near Ogden has new ownership, and upgraded trails.

The state's first new resort since 1981 is set to open near the Utah-Idaho border. Cherry Peaks Resort will have three lifts for skiers and snowboarders as well as a three-lane tubing hill and ice skating rink. It is about a 90-minute drive from Salt Lake City International Airport, located nearby Beaver Mountain Resort.

Cherry Peaks becomes the 15th resort in Utah. The resort's \$42 lift tickets will be on the low end of the spectrum that ranges from \$39-\$114 per day.

In southern Utah, Brian Head Resort is unveiling a new high speed quad chair lift that will cut ride time up the mountain in half. At nearby Eagle Point Resort, they have expanding the terrain park and installed a new lift that gives expert skiers and snowboarders access to steep black diamond runs.

Utah officials launched a \$1.8 million campaign to market Salt Lake City as "Ski City USA" in an effort to lure skiers away from top destination spots like Colorado and bring attention to four resorts in the Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons. As part of the push, they are promoting the "Super Pass" that is sold for about \$74 a day and gives skiers the option of going to Alta, Brighton, Snowbird or Solitude.

Soon after the campaign was announced. □

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Russia gets greater control over Black Sea region

V. ISACHENKOV

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia tightened its control Monday over Georgia's breakaway province of Abkhazia with a new treaty envisaging closer military and economic ties with the lush sliver of land along the Black Sea.

The move drew outrage and cries of "annexation" in Georgia and sent a chill through those in Abkhazia who fear that wealthy Russians will snap up their precious coastline. It also raised further suspicions in the West about Russian President Vladimir Putin's territorial aspirations after his annexation of Ukraine's Black Sea peninsula of Crimea in March.

Under the treaty signed by Putin and Abkhazia's leader in the nearby Black Sea resort of Sochi, Russian and Abkhazian forces in the territory will turn into a joint force led by a Russian commander.

Putin said Moscow will also double its subsidies to Abkhazia to about 9.3 billion rubles (over \$200 million) next year.

"I'm sure that cooperation, unity and strategic partnership between Russia and Abkhazia will continue to strengthen," he said.

"Ties with Russia offer us full security guarantees and broad opportunities for socio-economic development," Abkhazian President Raul Khadzhimba said.

Russian troops have been deployed in Abkhazia for more than two decades since the region of 240,000 people broke away from Georgia in a separatist war in the early 1990s. Still, Monday's agreement reflected a clear attempt by Moscow to further expand its presence and came only after a change of leadership in the territory.

Coming amid a chill in Russia-West ties over the Ukrainian crisis, the deal raised concern about Moscow's plans. The Black Sea region has always been important for Putin, who justified the annexation of Crimea by saying it would guarantee that NATO warships would

never be welcome on the peninsula, the home base of the Russian Black Sea Fleet.

NATO's secretary-general condemned the treaty, stressing that the alliance supports Georgia's sovereignty. He also called on Russia to reverse its recognition of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, another breakaway province, as independent states.

"This so-called treaty does not contribute to a peaceful and lasting settlement of the situation in Georgia," Jens Stoltenberg said. "On the contrary, it violates Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity and blatantly contradicts the principles of international law, OSCE principles and Russia's international commitments."

The U.S. also said it wouldn't recognize Russia's move and expressed continued support for Georgia's sovereignty.

"The United States will not recognize the legitimacy of any so-called 'treaty' between Georgia's Abkhazia region and the Russian Federation," the U.S. State Department said in a statement.

Abkhazia's former leader, Alexander Ankvab, was forced to step down earlier this year under pressure from protesters who reportedly were encouraged by the Kremlin. Khadzhimba, a former Soviet KGB officer, was elected president in an early vote in August that Georgia rejected as illegal.

Unlike Ankvab, who had resisted Moscow's push to let Russians buy assets in Abkhazia, Khadzhimba has appeared more eager to listen to Russia's demands. The Georgian Foreign Ministry denounced the new agreement as a "step toward the de-facto annexation" of Abkhazia and called on the international community to condemn the move.

Russian-Georgian relations were ruptured by war in August 2008 after former Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili attempted to restore control over South Ossetia. □



Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, and leader of Georgia's breakaway province of Abkhazia Raul Khadzhimba meet in the Bocharov Ruchei residence in Sochi, Russia, Monday, Nov. 24, 2014. (AP Photo/Mikhail Metzel)

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China defends land reclamation in South China Sea

BEIJING (AP) — Defying a U.S. call to halt the project, China defended its land reclamation in the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea on Monday, saying the work is for public service use, although a London-based security group says the new island could host a military airfield to intimidate neighbors. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said the construction on some reefs in the archipelago was to enable Chinese citizens working there to "better perform international obligations in terms of search, rescue and other

public services."

In a recent report, IHS Jane's said satellite images taken in August and No-

vember showed that Chinese dredgers had created a land mass almost the entire length of Fiery Cross



A Chinese fishing vessel sails by Fiery Cross Reef, background, also known as Yongshu Reef by the Chinese, of the Spratly Islands in South China Sea. Defying a U.S. call to halt the project, China defended its land reclamation in the disputed Spratly Islands on Monday, Nov. 24, 2014.

(AP Photo/Xinhua, Wang Cunfu)

Reef, which was previously under water. The security group said it is China's largest construction project in the island chain.

IHS Jane's said the new island — at least 3,000 meters (9,840 feet) long — could be China's first military airstrip in the Spratly Islands and might be aimed at helping Beijing impose its sovereignty claims over neighboring countries that also claim the territory.

"This facility appears purpose-built to coerce other claimants into relinquishing their claims and possessions, or at least provide China with a much stronger negotiating position if talks over the dispute were ever held," the report said. Tensions have been rising as Beijing has grown more assertive about its claim over the resource-rich South China Sea, which

is also crisscrossed by shipping routes. Its deployment of an oil rig near the Parcel Islands triggered a bitter standoff with Vietnam, where a wave of anti-China riots broke out in May, killing at least one Chinese worker. In August, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry proposed that all countries with competing claims halt any provocative actions, such as land reclamation, but China rejected the suggestion and said the tensions were being overblown.

On Monday, State Department spokesman Jeff Rathke urged China and other states in the region to be transparent about their activities in disputed areas of the South China Sea. He stopped short of criticizing China for its new construction but said such action could "complicate or escalate the situation."

Hong Kong to clear barricades

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong authorities said they will remove some barricades Tuesday from part of a pro-democracy protest site in Mong Kok district, scene of previous violent confrontations with police and angry mobs.

The government said in a statement late Monday that police will be on hand to assist bailiffs working under a court order to remove obstructions from the site, which activists have occupied for nearly two months. It said police are authorized to arrest anyone obstructing the bailiffs. Protesters have been camped out on major thoroughfares in three areas of Hong Kong since Sept.

28 demanding greater democracy.

The standoff has continued with no end in sight as neither the government nor the student-led protesters have shown any willingness to compromise.

Authorities last week started enforcing court orders against protest sites. They removed some barricades from the edge of the main protest area, next to the city government headquarters, while protesters offered little resistance.

The barricade clearances come at a critical phase for the protest movement, as student leaders run out of options, and public support and the number of demonstrators dwindle.



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Japan's young fret as unexpected recession hits

ELAINE KURTENBACH
AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — When Prime Minister Shinzo Abe responded to Japan's surprise recession by delaying a sales-tax increase, it was a cause for worry, not celebration, for many young Japanese. This generation, barely aware of their country's economic heyday, frets that putting off tough decisions now could make the future even worse.

Despite Abe's unprecedented stimulus efforts — almost everything short of dropping money from helicopters — Japan has slipped into recession less than two years after the last one. With the country's debt rising, population aging and job security fading, young people in particular wonder when, and if, Japan will bounce back.

"This is our children's future," said Mai Yamaguchi, a 29-year-old trading company employee heading into the gaudy Shibuya shopping area for an outing with her 4-month-old son and two other young moms and babies. "Child care, elder care, social welfare are all going to be even bigger burdens for us."

Under pressure to reduce the developed world's heaviest per-capita debt burden, at over a quadrillion yen (\$8.5 trillion), Abe raised the sales tax from 5 percent to 8 percent in April, and was supposed to increase it to 10 percent next year.

But after the economy, already fragile after two decades of malaise, shrank for two quarters in a row, he put off the second increase until 2017.

Yamaguchi was unimpressed by that decision. "I'm grateful to Mr. Abe for his policies to improve child care, but putting off the tax increase, well, they say the pension system is on the verge of bankruptcy. I think it would have been better to go ahead and raise the tax as planned," she said.

The generation born as Japan's economic bubble burst in the early 1990s will be supporting a vast cohort

of retirees. Though their nation is rich, with ultra-modern public transport, low crime rates and excellent public health services, most are making do without the security of lifetime employment enjoyed by their parents and grandparents.

Meanwhile, Japan's economy is being eclipsed by neighboring China, whose up-and-coming tech and industrial companies are increasingly potent rivals.

Low birth rates and increased life expectancy mean that Japan's working age population is thinning out while the number of retirees and centenarians is swelling. The rapid aging of Japanese society is so evident in the mix of pedestrians on the street, in the media and in political discourse that it's an issue on just about everyone's mind.

Ryosuke Sunaga, a college senior decked out in his best job-hunting suit and brand new briefcase, said that by the time he has kids, he expects the sales tax will be at least 15 percent.

On Friday, Abe dissolved parliament for a Dec. 14 snap election he is calling to seek public approval of the tax hike delay and to affirm public support for his all-or-nothing policies to revive the world's third-largest economy.

He has pledged to vanquish Japan's long stagnation by injecting tens of trillions of yen (hundreds of billions of dollars) into the economy, pushing prices higher and the value of Japan's currency lower. He also has promised a sweeping and drastic overhaul to help improve the country's crumbling competitiveness.

So far, that combination, dubbed "Abenomics," has yielded mixed results.

Profits of big exporters have surged, thanks to the weaker yen, but higher costs have hit households and smaller companies. Despite some wage increases, many ordinary Japanese feel less well off than before, thanks to longer-term declines in wages and purchasing power.

"I'm not a permanent employee, and that worries me," said Kaori Endo, a 21-year-old bread factory worker from Ibaraki, north

of Tokyo.

"Right now I'm living with my family, but I'm thinking about how I will support my parents. If I were a full em-

ployee, my parents would be less worried," said Endo, who plans to take professional tests to help improve her job status. □



Kaori Endo, a 21-year-old bread factory worker from Ibaraki, north of Tokyo, poses for a portrait at a scramble crossing at Shibuya shopping district in Tokyo.

(AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko)

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Islamic State group recruits, exploits children

ZEINA KARAM
VIVIAN SALAMA
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Teenagers carrying weapons stand at checkpoints and busy intersections in Iraq's second-largest city, Mosul. Patched onto the left arms of their black uniforms are the logos of the Islamic Police.

In Raqqa, the Islamic State group's de facto capital in Syria, boys attend training camp and religious courses before heading off to fight. Others serve as cooks or guards at the extremists' headquarters or as spies, informing on people in their neighborhoods.

Across the vast region under IS control, the group is actively conscripting children for battle and committing abuses against the most vulnerable at a young age, according to a growing body of evidence assembled from residents, activists, independent experts and human rights groups.

In the northern Syrian town of Kobani, where ethnic Kurds have been resisting an IS onslaught for weeks, several activists told The Associated Press they observed children fighting alongside the militants. Mustafa Bali, a Kobani-based activist, said he saw the bodies of four boys, two of them younger than 14. And at least one 18 year old is said to have carried out a suicide attack. In Syria's Aleppo province, an activist affiliated with the rebel Free Syrian Army said its fighters encountered children in their late teens "fairly often" in battles against the rival Islamic State group.

It is difficult to determine just how widespread the exploitation of children is in the closed world of IS-

controlled territory. There are no reliable figures on the number of minors the group employs. However, a video posted on militant websites Monday offered the most substantive evidence to date

The group "prioritizes children as a vehicle for ensuring long-term loyalty, adherence to their ideology and a cadre of devoted fighters that will see violence as a way of life," it said in a recent report. The

atic and organized way. And the effect is that much greater because IS commands large areas in which the militants inculcate the children with their radical and violent interpretation of Shariah law.

seems to be part of the strategy of the group," Zerrougui said in a phone interview from New York. She said some children join voluntarily for various reasons but others are targeted. "They are abducting children and forcing them to join, they are brainwashing children and indoctrinating them to join their group. All the tools used to attract and recruit children are used by this group," she said, adding that children as young as 9 or 10 are used for "various roles."

In areas of Syria and Iraq under their control, the Sunni extremists have closed schools or changed the curriculum to fit with their ideology. Their goal, according to the U.N., is to use education as a tool of indoctrination to foster a new generation of supporters. A video recently published by an IS media arm shows what it says is a graduation ceremony for boys, who appear to be in their teens. Dressed in military uniforms, they are lined up to shake hands with a sheikh. Another scene shows the boys posing with AK-47s, their faces hidden under black masks. The video touts the children as a "generation of lions, protectors of religion, dignity and land."

Residents of IS-controlled areas said the militants are teaching children at school to become fighters. One resident in the Iraqi city of Fallujah described seeing his 6-year-old son playing with a water pistol in front of the house and screaming: "I am a fighter for the Islamic State!"

"I waved him to come to me and I broke the gun in two pieces," said the man, who spoke on condition of anonymity out of fear of his life. □



In this file photo taken Thursday, June 19, 2014, Islamic State group militants stand by a captured Iraqi army Humvee at a checkpoint outside Beiji refinery, some 250 kilometers (155 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq. Across the vast region in Syria and Iraq that is part of the Islamic State group's self-declared caliphate, children are being inculcated with the extremist group's radical and violent interpretation of Shariah law. (AP Photo, File)

that the militant group enlists children. It purportedly highlights the so-called "Cubs of the Caliphate" class, showing young children dressed in black training to use different weapons, responding to staged ambushes and learning to manufacture explosives. The video corresponded with AP reporting.

But a United Nations panel investigating war crimes in the Syrian conflict concluded that in its enlistment of children for active combat roles, the Islamic State group is perpetrating abuses and war crimes on a massive scale "in a systematic and organized manner."

panel of experts, known as the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria, conducted more than 300 interviews with people who fled or are living in IS-controlled areas, and examined video and photographic evidence.

The use of children by armed groups in conflict is, of course, nothing new. In the Syrian civil war, the Free Syrian Army and Nusra Front rebel groups also recruit children for combat, said Leila Zerrougui, the U.N. secretary-general's special representative for children and armed conflict. But no other group comes close to IS in using children in such a system-

"What is new is that ISIS seems to be quite transparent and vocal about their intention and their practice of recruiting children," said Laurent Chapuis, UNICEF regional child protection adviser for the Middle East and North Africa, using an alternate acronym for the group. "Children as young as 10, 12 years old are being used in a variety of roles, as combatants as messengers, spies, guards, manning checkpoints but also for domestic purposes like cooking, cleaning, sometimes providing medical care to the wounded." "This is not a marginal phenomenon. This is something that is being observed and



Sizzling Finals and a Wild, Wild Crowd:

2014 Divi Aruba Beach Tennis Open A Smash success!

EAGLE BEACH - Ladies Maraike Biglmaier (9) and Camilla Ponti (13) and Alessandro Calbucci and Marco Garavini are the winners of the 2014 Divi Aruba Beach Tennis Open. More than 2,000 spectators 'oohed' and 'aahed' in the Amstel Bright Stadium during the incredible rallies of both close finals. "This is insane!" yelled the commentator as the crowd roared its approval during exceptional points. The Ladies and Men's finals marked the last day of a 5-day tournament that made Eagle Beach tremble: with 1,100 participants from 25 countries it was the biggest and best beach tennis event ever.



The ladies final was tremendous: Maraike Biglmaier from Germany and her partner Camilla Ponti from Italy had their hands full with singles winner Pauline Bourdet (France) and Pilar Escandell from Spain.

The score was 7-6/6-4; the wonderful match preceded the all-Italian Men's final between Alessandro Calbucci/Marco Garavini and Matteo Marighella and Michele Capeletti, all top 10 professional players. Calbucci/Garavini took the first set 6-3 and proceeded to stay ahead of Marighella/Capeletti until the end. The out-of-this-world smashes of all four players had the crowd in ecstasy. The Aruba beach tennis tournament offered the largest prize money: the ladies as well as the men went home with \$4,500 for the winners and \$2,700 for the runners-up.



Photos show the moment that Calbucci/Garavini hit their final winner and Biglmaier/Ponti during the awards ceremony. The results in the various categories of the very successful Divi Aruba Beach Tennis Open 2014 show that the many participants from abroad have done really well. Local players received so much opposition that they did not get into the finals. They played hard and tough, but they were defeated. The winners were:
Fun Men: Marcelo/Thiago - Marcos/Vander (7-1)
Fun Women: Roberta/Leticia - Lucia/andrea (7-2)
Intermediate Men: Fabio/

Marcio - Antonino/Dimas (7-3)
Intermediate Women: Mirlen/Mariana - Diana/Mariandreina (7-3)
Advanced Men: Fadda/Martinez - Pascal/Nicolas (7-6)
Advanced Women: Lu/Monica - Rachel/Silvia (7-4)
The fantastic Divi Aruba Beach Tennis Open tournament hosted 1100 players from 25 countries. The event was much-televised and it drew crowds of enthusiastic fans, especially last Sunday, the day of the finals. The world-ranked players put on a terrific show, and the amateurs did great too! □





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A success story

Wim Arns, a middle-aged Dutch man, got severely burned on his hands and face when cigar ashes drifted down in the bucket of paraffin oil he was holding, causing a spontaneous explosion. Wim: "The explosion caused the burning paraffin oil to run all over my hands and a burst of flames burnt my whole face. It was such a painful and horrible experience I thought I would never recover and look normal again. After being treated in the Burn Centre clinic in Rotterdam, the doctors referred me to a skin therapist in my hometown where I should continue the sensitive after care of the burn scars. My skin felt really tight and itchy and I wanted a cream that would make my skin more flexible and stop the itching. That's when the therapist recommended *Alhydran*. Already within an hour of applying the cream, I felt my skin had more space to breathe, the itching stopped and it generally felt more comfortable. My face has healed completely, the skin has total flexibility again and the same counts for my hands. Therapy will also have contributed to this, but that the skin moves freely without tearing and that the itching is all gone, I attribute that to the use of *Alhydran*" said a very grateful Wim.

Alhydran; through the eyes of a professional

Rina Rijkenberg is a certified skin therapist in Oosterbeek, the Netherlands. In her practice she comes into daily contact with people that have a broad range of skin problems and complaints. As a specialist, she has different treatments and products to opt from, but *Alhydran* is her nr 1 solution. Rina: "A lot of complaints are that the skin feels dry, itchy, red, sensitive and painful, which are symptoms frequently associated with burn victims, lymph edema patients, people that have undergone radiation therapy, have general scar tissue, acne or excessive hair. All this can be jointly caused by a deregulation in the moisture levels of the skin, causing the skin to feel dry, itchy and inflexible.



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10 - 11pm were recently renewed to continue to surprise guest with new, exciting and exclusive developments in entertainment. Introducing two new additions to the team: Robin Pels and Benny Holzken! Young, vibrant lady Robin, and blue-eyed stunner Benny will serve drinks at Happy Hour and belt out tunes all at the same time, without missing a beat or spilling a drop. Bugaloe's Live Happy Hour Entertainment gives you top of the bill performers. Robin, 22, graduated in Musical Theater Studies at the prestigious Frank Sanders Academy in Amsterdam shortly before moving to Aruba, while Benny travelled with a theater concert tour along all Dutch theaters as a soloist for 6 years! This new and

exclusive form of entertainment to Aruba is only the next step in Bugaloe's continuing mission to amuse and attract their wide variety of guests. Those guests are the core and soul Bugaloe's existence. "They are the people you do it for, the great mix of strangers becoming life-long friends from all corners of the world smiling, singing and enjoying themselves to the fullest", says Robin. Benny continues: "Even after touring for the last 6 years, meeting different people and seeing many places, there is something about this spot in particular. The location, sun and sea bring out the best in people, not only in me and my singing abilities, but also in the guests. You can see it in the way they act, always



interacting and laughing with the Bugaloe staff". The combination of location, relaxing vibes, live music 4 nights a week, live happy hour entertainment, and the interaction between staff and guests did not went unnoticed. Both Endless Vacation

and Cruiseline Magazine named Bugaloe one of the top 10 best beach bars in the Caribbean. To conclude with the words of The Huffington Post "Bugaloe is a sexy locale right on the water with that true sense-of-place feel".



In this Nov. 23, 2014, file photo, New York Giants wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. (13) makes a one-handed catch for a touchdown against Dallas Cowboys cornerback Brandon Carr (39) in the second quarter of an NFL football game in East Rutherford, N.J. The one-handed catch by Odell Beckham Jr. that became the most talked-about play from Sunday did more than just boost his standing with the New York Giants, it paid off a routine growing popular among many skill players of practicing the impractical, one-handed circus grab. Associated Press

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Pablo Sandoval reaches multiyear deal with Red Sox

JANIE McCAULEY
AP Baseball Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Free agent third baseman Pablo Sandoval and the Boston Red Sox have agreed to a multiyear contract, and the switch-hitting slugger informed the San Francisco Giants he's leaving. "Got the call. He is going to the Red Sox," Giants assistant general manager Bobby Evans said Monday. Sandoval, the 2012 World Series MVP with San

Francisco, was pondering an offer from the Giants worth close to \$100 million over five years, two people with knowledge of that proposalsaid, also speaking on condition of anonymity because no deal had been announced. Sandoval, 28, met with the Red Sox last week. After winning his third World Series title in five years with San Francisco, he indicated he wanted to retire with the Giants. Sandoval joins a big-

spending Boston team that finished last in the AL East, one year after winning the World Series. The Red Sox will not forfeit the No. 7 overall pick in June's amateur draft but will give up a later selection.

In this Oct. 18, 2014, file photo, San Francisco Giants third baseman Pablo Sandoval smiles as he takes batting practice during a team workout in San Francisco. Associated Press



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Chiefs place Berry on non-football illness list

By **DAVE SKRETTA**

AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) --

Chiefs safety Eric Berry is gearing up for a fight after a mass was found in his chest following last week's game in Oakland. He was placed on the non-football injury list Monday, and trainer Rick Burkholder said Berry may have lymphoma.

Burkholder said doctors are "75 percent" of the way toward a definitive diagnosis, and that Berry was on his way to Atlanta to be examined by specialists at



Kansas City Chiefs safety Eric Berry

Associated Press

Emory University.

"They may do further scans. In all likelihood, they'll do a biopsy of one of the lymph nodes or the mass," Burkholder said. "We'll be able to give you more information in the next couple days."

Burkholder spoke during a somber news conference attended by Chiefs coach Andy Reid, general manager John Dorsey, team president Mark Donovan and chairman Clark Hunt. Berry issued a statement in which he said he was "in shock" but promised to battle the illness.

"I understand that right now I have to concentrate on a new opponent," he said. "I have great confidence in the doctors and the plan they are going to put in place for me to win this fight. I believe that I am in God's hands and I have great peace in that."

The 25-year-old Berry, an All-Pro in 2013, began feeling discomfort during Thursday night's loss in Oakland. He was examined by team physicians Cris Barnhouse and Michael Monaco, and they recommended further tests. The mass on the right side of his chest was discovered Friday night.

Berry underwent more tests, including a CT scan and blood work, over the weekend. He met with the team on Monday morning, shortly before flying to Atlanta for a consultation with Dr. Christopher Flowers, an associate professor at Emory and a leading expert in lymphoma.

Berry has no history of cancer, Burkholder said, and a routine physical over the summer came back clean. In fact, Berry is considered one of the healthiest players on the team, usually absent from the locker room

during periods of media availability because he is in the training room.

"He had an opportunity to address the team and feel their love and support, which I think is crucial," Reid said. "When you get in these situations, you hunker down and battle for your life, which is what you do. You have to be in a certain frame of mind, have certain support to back you up, and Eric has that with his family and also the Chiefs."

Berry, who grew up near Atlanta, is expected to be evaluated over the next few days. The Chiefs (7-3) will head into a pivotal AFC West showdown with Denver on Sunday night without him. "We're really just a microcosm of life," Reid said, "is what we are in this building. And a small family - maybe a big family, you could say. So you have the support, people standing up, and they work through the emotional part of it, support each other and most of all support Eric."

Berry was the fifth-overall pick in the 2010 draft, and made an impact almost from the start, earning Pro Bowl honors his rookie season. He missed nearly all of his second year after tearing a ligament in his knee, but returned to start every game the following season. He was voted All-Pro last season after tallying 3 1/2 sacks, recording three interceptions and scoring two touchdowns. He also recovered two fumbles while making 81 tackles.

This year had been a disappointment. Berry sustained a high ankle sprain in Week 2 against Denver, sidelining him for the next six weeks, and he's struggled to get back up to speed.

Now, the kind of news that

puts even the worst of seasons into perspective.

"Eric is as strong and courageous as anyone I know," said his agent, Chad Speck, who saw Berry in Oakland and spoke to him after learning of his illness Saturday. "When I spoke to him that night, I felt his strength and his faith through the phone."

The Chiefs have certainly experienced plenty of heartache over the years. In 1983, popular running back Joe Delaney drowned while trying to rescue three children who were struggling in a Louisiana pond. In 2000, linebacker Derrick Thomas died of injuries sustained in an auto accident. And two years ago, linebacker Jovan Belcher shot to death the mother of his infant daughter before driving to the team practice facility and killing himself.

"I don't think you're ever equipped necessarily to handle what life throws at you," said Hunt, whose family owns the Chiefs, "and certainly this was completely unexpected. But I do think we have a culture where we respect and support each other, and really that's the most important thing."

Hunt said he had a chance to speak with Berry on Monday and offer his support.

"When you have someone who has been with you for a number of years, and I've had a chance to get to know him personally and he's been such a leader for our football team, it probably does pull at the heart strings more," Hunt said. "But whether it's an employee in the front office or someone on the field, when they're going through a tough time like this, we want to be there." □

Tommy Armour III wins Callaway Invitational

PEBBLE BEACH, California

(AP) — Tommy Armour III made a 4-foot birdie putt on the first playoff hole for a one-shot victory over Lee Janzen at the Callaway Pebble Beach Invitational. Armour, who won the event for the third time in its 43-year history, had a final-round 67 for a 14-under 274. He began the day trailing Janzen, the two-time U.S. Open champion, by two shots.

The co-leader after three rounds with Andrew Putnam, Janzen finished with a 69. After hitting his tee shot on the 18th hole of regulation onto the beach, Armour recovered with a 17-foot birdie putt to match Janzen at 14 under.

Janzen had just made a 30-foot birdie from the front fringe.

"When I saw the ball on the beach I knew there was no other way," said Armour, the 2007 and 2008 winner who used a 7-iron to get back on the fairway. "I've had that shot before but I've never made it."

Armour, who won the event in 2007 and 2008 when he was on the PGA Tour, joined Mark Brooks as the tournament's only three-time winners.

Janzen, who joined the Champions Tour in August, held a two-shot lead at 15 under after 12 holes. But Janzen, whose last PGA Tour win was the 1998 U.S. Open, then bogeyed twice, while Armour made five straight pars through the 17th.

"I chunked a wedge on 13 and made bogey and that was the start of it," said Janzen. "I hit some bad shots and some good shots and there were some good things to build on."

Janzen and Armour both hit their playoff-hole tee shots on the 18th behind trees. Both players hit low second shots with Janzen's effort hitting Armour's ball in the fairway.

Armour hit his third shot past the hole and it rolled back. Janzen missed an estimated 15-footer birdie before Armour's winning putt. □

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NBA Capsules

Grizzlies rout Clippers 107-91, improve to 12-2

The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)

— Marc Gasol had 30 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Memphis Grizzlies to a 107-91 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Sunday.

Gasol was 13 of 18 from the field as six Grizzlies reached double figures. Courtney Lee added 13 points for Memphis, which maintained the league's best record (12-2).

Tony Allen had 12 points, while Beno Udrih and Quincy Pondexter had 11 points apiece off the Memphis bench. Zach Randolph had 10 points.

Chris Paul had 22 points, five assists and four steals for the Clippers, who had their two-game winning streak snapped. Jamal Crawford scored 19, and J.J. Redick finished with 15, going 3 of 6 from outside the arc.

Blake Griffin scored 12 points, but was 5 of 17 from the field.

HEAT 94, HORNETS 93

MIAMI (AP) — Luol Deng scored 26 points, and Chris Bosh and Mario Chalmers each added 20 as Miami held on in the final seconds to beat Charlotte and snap a three-game home slide.

Kemba Walker missed two potential go-ahead shots in the final half-minute for the Hornets, and Al Jefferson's tip-in try bounced off the rim as time expired as Charlotte dropped its fifth straight.

Chalmers had 10 assists for his second double-double of the season and Shabazz Napier scored 14 for the Heat.

Jefferson finished with 22

points and 12 rebounds for Charlotte, which got 17 points from Lance Stephenson and 16 from Walker. The Hornets led by as many as eight in the fourth, before Miami rallied.

Miami was without guard Dwyane Wade for the sixth straight game.

TRAIL BLAZERS 94, CELTICS 88

BOSTON (AP) — LaMarcus Aldridge had 20 points and 14 rebounds, and reserve Chris Kaman scored 16 points as Portland extended its winning streak to seven games.

Damian Lillard added 12 points and five assists for Portland, which began a brief East swing. Nicolas Batum also had 12 points. Jeff Green and Jared Sullinger had 19 points apiece for Boston, which dropped its fifth in six games. Avery Bradley and Rajon Rondo each scored 13. Rondo added eight assists and six rebounds.

The game was tied at 72-all after three quarters before the Trail Blazers took charge with a 17-5 run to start the fourth. Wesley Matthews and Lillard each hit a 3-pointer just over a minute apart.

WARRIORS 91, THUNDER 86 OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Marreese Speights scored 28 points for Golden State, matching the second-highest scoring game of his career and his best total since 2009.

Klay Thompson scored 20 points and Stephen Curry added 15 for the Warriors (10-2), who won despite shooting a season-low 35.5 percent from the field. Thompson and Curry, two

of the top 10 scorers in the league, combined to make just 11 of 35 shots.

Reggie Jackson had 22 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists, and Anthony Morrow added 16 points and matched a career high with 12 rebounds for Oklahoma City. Serge Ibaka scored 16 points, but shot just 5 of 17 for the Thunder (3-13), who lost their sixth in a row.

NUGGETS 101, LAKERS 94, OT

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Wilson Chandler scored 19 points and Ty Lawson had 18 points and 16 assists as Denver beat the Lakers.

Arron Afflalo added 15 points for the Nuggets, who have won five of six following a 1-6 start that was capped by consecutive double-digit losses to Portland.

The Lakers, coming off a 140-106 drubbing at Dallas, began a four-game home-stand with their seventh straight loss to the Nug-



Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant, center, gets double teamed by Denver Nuggets forward Wilson Chandler (21) and center JaVale McGee, right, as he drives to the basket in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Nov. 23, 2014, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

gets, despite 27 points from Kobe Bryant. The NBA's No. 4 career scorer made only four of 14 shots after the third quarter and finished 10 for 24.

The losing streak against

Denver matches the Lakers' longest against any club since an eight-game drought against Portland from Feb. 18, 1993, through Jan. 9, 1995.

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Johnson, Martinez, Smoltz on Hall of Fame ballot

NEW YORK (AP) -- Randy Johnson, Pedro Martinez and John Smoltz are among 17 newcomers on baseball's 2015 Hall of Fame ballot.

Craig Biggio, who fell two votes short of the 75 percent needed in the 2014 balloting, tops 17 holdovers on the Baseball Writers' Association of America ballot announced Monday. That group includes Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens, Sammy Sosa, Mark McGwire, Mike Piazza, Jeff Bagwell and Tim Lincecum.

Johnson went 303-166 and won five Cy Young Awards. The Big Unit struck out 4,875 batters, second only to Nolan Ryan's 5,714.

Martinez, a three-time Cy Young winner, was 219-100 and struck out 3,154. He led the major leagues in ERA five times. Smoltz is vying to join former Atlanta teammates Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine, who were in-

ducted this year along with Chicago White Sox slugger Frank Thomas. Smoltz had

tion head Tony Clark also are among the first-time eligibles.

thered players in the 11-15 group, which also includes Alan Trammell (14th year)

received 11 percent last year, down from a peak of 25.6 in 2008.

Clemens, a seven-time Cy Young Award winner, dropped from 38 percent to 35 percent in his second ballot appearance. Bonds, a seven-time MVP and baseball's career home run leader, fell from 36 percent to 35. Sosa, who hit 609 homers, dropped from 13 percent to 7 and is close to falling below the 5 percent threshold for remaining on the ballot.

Voters are the approximately 600 writers who have been members of the BBWAA for 10 consecutive years at any point. Ballots must be postmarked by Dec. 27. Results will be announced Jan. 6.

Players elected, along with choices announced Dec. 8 by the golden era committee (1947-72), will be inducted July 26 at Cooperstown. □



From left are Arizona Diamondbacks' Randy Johnson in 2008, Boston Red Sox' Pedro Martinez in 2003 and Atlanta Braves' John Smoltz in 2008.

Associated Press

a 213-155 record and 154 saves, the only pitcher with 200 wins and 150 saves. He was 15-4 in the postseason. Carlos Delgado, Nomar Garciaparra, Gary Sheffield and players' associa-

Don Mattingly will appear on the ballot for the 15th and final time after receiving 8 percent last year. The Hall's board voted in July to cut a player's eligibility from 15 years to 10 but grandfa-

and Lee Smith (13th). Players who have admitted steroids use or been tainted with accusations of use have fallen short. McGwire, entering his next-to-last year of eligibility,

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Beckham catch is monster highlight for Giants

TOM CANAVAN

AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP) —

Odell Beckham Jr. hopes his jaw-dropping, one-handed touchdown catch for the New York Giants on Sunday night isn't the NFL's greatest of all time.

The rookie believes there are more great catches to come, including some he can make and celebrate. "I haven't really seen it yet. I saw it on the replays," said Beckham, who finished with 10 catches for 146 yards and two touchdowns in the 31-28 loss to the Dallas Cowboys.

"I hope it is not the greatest catch because with time I hope I can make more. It really means nothing. You still go home at the end of the day with a loss, and that's just not a good feeling."

The catch lifted a sellout crowd of more than 80,000 fans out of their seats, and it didn't make a difference if they were cheering for the Giants or the Cowboys. "I have played this game for 10 years," Giants safety Antrel Rolle said, "and that was the greatest catch I've seen."

Players on both sides couldn't say enough and fans flooded the internet with comments about Beckham's catch, "Man I just witnessed the greatest catch ever possibly by Odell Beckham Jr! WOW!!!!" LeBron James tweeted.

Beckham's right hand was fully extended in almost a backstroke motion while his legs were almost perpendicular to the field. "It's special," Dallas quarterback Tony Romo said. "I've got a guy on our team who makes come incredible catches.

That one is right there with anything I've ever seen. That was pretty impressive." Beckham, who missed the first four games of the season, agreed it was his best in a game — for now.

"I guess I have to thank my mom for the long fingers," said Beckham, who practices one-hand catches before every game. "Hers are maybe a half an inch shorter than mine."

Still, it wasn't enough to prevent the Giants from losing their sixth straight game, as Romo led a game-winning drive after New York took a 28-21 lead on a 1-yard touchdown pass from Eli Manning to Adrien Robinson with 3 minutes to play.

Romo threw two touchdown passes to Dez Bryant, the game winner coming from 13 yards with 1:01 remaining. It capped an 80-yard march in which Romo never was pressured as he searched for receivers.

Dallas, which was treated to chants of "Let's Go Cowboys!" in the second half from hundreds of fans in Cowboys garb, is 5-0 on the road. New York, meanwhile, was eliminated from division contention.

Thanks to Beckham's catch, one of the rookie's two first-half touchdowns, New York built a 21-10 halftime lead. But Romo hit Cole Beasley with a short pass that he turned into a 45-yard score, and the quarterback's 31-yarder to an uncovered Bryant put Dallas on top for the first time.

Beckham left briefly in the fourth quarter with a back problem, but returned for the next series. He wasn't involved in any key plays on that TD drive to retake the lead, and Beckham



In this Nov. 23, 2014, file photo, New York Giants wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. (13) makes a one-handed catch for a touchdown against Dallas Cowboys cornerback Brandon Carr (39) in the second quarter of an NFL football game in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press

finished with 10 receptions for 146 yards.

"Hopefully, it's a bruise," Beckham said.

Beckham's right-handed stab of Manning's 43-yard rainbow pass could be the catch of the year. The rookie, who regularly practices such receptions, outreached veteran cornerback Brandon Carr at the goal line and tumbled backward into the end zone to make it 14-3.

"I have seen him make

catches like that all the time (in practice)," coach Tom Coughlin said.

That catch already was dominating highlight reels by halftime and was his second TD of the game. The 80-yard drive to Beckham's first touchdown marked the second straight week the Giants got into the end zone on their opening possession after going 20 games without doing so.

Dallas' offense hardly was in awe following Beckham's

one-hander. Romo guided the Cowboys 77 yards and used a shovel pass to Jason Witten — yes, the tight end used two hands — from the 4 immediately after Beckham's stunner.

So the kid from Louisiana State University went right back to overwhelming the Cowboys. He made three catches for 32 yards on New York's next series, including a spin move that would make a figure skater proud.

Longtime NHL coach, executive Pat Quinn dies at 71

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Pat Quinn, a former defenseman and longtime NHL coach and executive who brought a gruff and passionate presence to hockey across the decades, has died at 71. He died Sunday night in Vancouver after a long illness, the Hockey Hall of Fame and the Western Hockey League's Vancouver Giants said Monday. Quinn was co-owner of the team.

Quinn played parts of nine seasons in the NHL and went on to coach the Philadelphia Flyers, Los Angeles Kings, Vancouver Canucks and Toronto Maple Leafs. Quinn guided Canada to the championship at the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City, the country's first gold medal in men's hockey in 50 years. He was behind the bench when Canada won the World Cup of Hockey in 2004.

"Pat Quinn was a giant of the hockey world, on the ice and off," Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper said on Twitter.

Quinn coached Vancouver to the 1994 Stanley Cup final, the Canadian world junior team to gold in 2009 and helped the Maple Leafs reach the Eastern Conference finals two times.

"Whether he was playing for a team, coaching a team or building one, Pat Quinn was thoughtful, pas-



This April 19, 2004, file photo shows Toronto Maple Leafs head coach Pat Quinn answering questions following an optional skate in Toronto.

Associated Press

sionate and committed to success," NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said in a statement.

"Pat's contributions to hockey, at every level, reflected the skills he possessed and the great respect with which he treated the sport."

Broadcaster and executive John Davidson described Quinn as "a guy that loves the game so much that when he walks in, you know hockey's in the room."

Quinn led the Philadelphia Flyers to a 35-game unbeaten streak in the 1979-80 season that almost certainly will never be broken since ties have been taken out of the game. In 15 full

seasons as an NHL coach, Quinn's teams missed the playoffs only three times. That success came over the span of decades, as a coach and executive.

"He's not unlike a Scotty Bowman in that they're really bright guys," said former Washington Capitals GM George McPhee, who worked under him in Vancouver and made his son Graham's middle name Quinn in tribute.

"They were really intelligent and they could see the trends, they could see the fads, the things that were going to come and go and the things that would stay. Very perceptive and he adjusted and advanced."

Quinn was admired by those close to him for having a heart to match his 6-foot-3, 200-plus-pound frame.

"He's a real guy's guy. He's a man's man," Florida Panthers GM Dale Tallon said. "He's just a straight shooter and called it like it is."

Quinn was born in Hamilton, Ontario, on Jan. 29, 1943. He bounced around the minors before making his NHL debut with the Leafs in 1968.

In the 1969 playoffs, his blindside hit on Bobby Orr knocked out the legendary defenseman.

Quinn also played for the Canucks and Atlanta Flames before retiring in 1977 with an ankle injury. Almost immediately, he went into coaching and was an assistant on Fred Shero's staff in Philadelphia. During the 1978-79 season, he replaced Bob McCammon as the Flyers' coach.

"Pat brought a complete change to the game that we had made so successful under Shero," said Bobby Clarke, a Hall of Fame player for the Flyers, later their GM and now the team's senior vice president. "You trusted what he was trying to implement with our team."

Quinn became the coach of the Los Angeles Kings after his dismissal in Philadelphia. He left Los Angeles to take the job of president and GM in Vancouver.

He returned to coaching

during the 1990-91 season and won his second coach of the year title with the Canucks the next season when they went 42-26-12.

Perhaps his most memorable accomplishment came when the Canucks, seeded seventh in the Western Conference, beat Calgary, Dallas and Toronto to reach the Stanley Cup final in the 1993-94 season.

The Canucks made it to Game 7 before losing to the New York Rangers.

Quinn went back to the front office in Vancouver, where he remained until he was fired by new ownership in 1997. Quinn returned to coaching in 1998 when he was hired by the Maple Leafs.

Toronto went to the Eastern Conference final in his first season in 1998-99 and again in 2002. During the 2002 East final, Quinn missed two games with heart problems.

"He allowed himself to get overweight, he smoked the cigars and loved to socialize," Clarke said.

The Leafs made the playoffs in Quinn's first five seasons, which included a stint as president and GM.

He "had a presence in the dressing room that demanded respect and had a way of talking and getting the guys ready for each game that really got the best out of the teams that he coached," longtime Leafs captain Mats Sundin said. □

Lundqvist, Rangers roll over surging Canadiens 5-0

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Henrik Lundqvist stopped 21 shots for his fourth shutout and Martin St. Louis had a goal and assist as the suddenly stingy New York Rangers routed the NHL-leading Montreal Canadiens 5-0 on Sunday night.

Lundqvist, who followed on the heels of backup Cam Talbot's blanking of Philadelphia on Wednesday, posted his team-record 54th shutout. Dominic Moore scored his first goal, and Derek Stepan added

his second in a dominant middle period for the Rangers.

Carl Hagelin scored at 1:40 of the third and Rick Nash made it 5-0 with his 14th goal with 4:36 left in the second matchup between the teams since New York won the Eastern Conference finals.

DUCKS 2, COYOTES 1

ANAHEIM, California (AP) — Kyle Palmieri and Patrick Maroon each scored a goal, and Ryan Kesler had two assists in the Ducks' victory over the Coyotes.

Frederik Andersen stopped 29 shots for the Ducks, who extended their unbeaten streak against the Coyotes to seven games. The Western Conference-leading Ducks (13-4-5) also won in regulation for the first time in exactly three weeks.

Keith Yandle scored and Mike Smith made 25 saves for the Coyotes.

BLUES 4, JETS 2

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Ryan Reaves scored the game-winner in his hometown as the Blues beat the Jets. □



New York Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist of Sweden blocks a shot during the first period of the NHL hockey game against the Montreal Canadiens, Sunday, Nov. 23, 2014, in New York.

Associated Press

Does bad behavior really hurt business?

BARBARA ORTUTAY

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Silicon Valley seems to have more than its share of companies behaving badly. Among up-and-comers in the tech world, privacy abuses and executive gaffes have become viral sensations. But is all that bad behavior actually bad for business?

Last week, Uber sparked controversy after a top executive suggested spending \$1 million to dig up dirt on a journalist critical of the driver-on-demand company challenging the taxi establishment in cities. It's only the latest time Uber has been called out, either for actions by its drivers or its corporate culture. The company also is investigating one of its New York employees for tracking another journalist's ride, which has raised fears that Uber is misusing customers' private location information. So far Uber's investors, which include Google Ventures and prominent venture capital firms that poured \$1.2 billion into the company at its latest funding round, have remained quiet. So is Uber's much-criticized corporate behavior just part of the package, a reason even, for its meteoric rise and ability to go after smaller rivals and the taxi establishment? Or is it a liability for the company, its Ayn Rand-loving libertarian CEO and its



In this March 27, 2014 file photo, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella speaks with reporters after giving a press briefing on the intersection of cloud and mobile computing, in San Francisco. At an October conference celebrating women in computing, Nadella told women they shouldn't ask for a raise — just trust that "good karma" will bring it to them. He later apologized.

Associated Press

backers?

"I think it's going to alienate some potential customers but I doubt, given what's happened to date, that it's going to make a big difference," said Robert Hurley, director of the Consortium of Trustworthy Organizations at Fordham University in New York.

So far, the controversies haven't put the brakes on Uber's skyrocketing valuation (\$17 billion at last count, and reportedly heading to nearly double that), or its popularity among people who can use the app to hitch rides. There are calls to boycott the company on Twitter, and many have vowed to go to its smaller rival Lyft. But on Friday Uber was ranked 35th among the most popular free apps

on iTunes — up from 37th on Monday.

"If it's a brand (people) like — and Uber is a brand (people) like — they have a few get out of jail cards," said Allen Adamson, managing director of the branding firm Landor Associates.

Uber did not respond to requests for comment.

Not that Uber is an anomaly in the industry. Some tech companies have had executives with domestic violence charges or who have gone on tactless Facebook and Twitter rants. Earlier this year, the hot dating app Tinder settled a sexual harassment and discrimination lawsuit filed by a co-founder. It claimed that Tinder's founders engaged in "atrocious sexual harass-



In this April 29, 2014 file photo, Uber CEO Travis Kalanick arrives at the 2014 TIME 100 Gala in New York.

Associated Press

ment and sex discrimination" against a former vice president at the company, calling her names and threatening to strip away her co-founder title. The suit hasn't crimped Tinder's style: the product reportedly makes over 14 million matches a day.

Public relations problems aren't limited to startups. Last month, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella told women they shouldn't ask for a raise and just trust "good karma" instead. The punchline? He made the statement, for which he later apologized, at a conference celebrating women in computing.

"You have these CEOs that don't have much filter and get in trouble," said John Challenger, CEO of the outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas.

But unlike in the old days, it's hard for things to get buried in the age of blogs, Twitter and Reddit. "There is much less ability to wipe the slate clean," he notes. Some established tech companies have rolled out new features without disclosing privacy implications, all while professing respect for customers' personal data and privacy. Take Google, for example. The company, which was founded with the motto "don't be evil," has faced scrutiny from European regulators for secretly scooping up users' personal data transmitted over unencrypted Wi-Fi networks in cities around the world for at least two years. In the U.S., Google paid \$500 million to settle a U.S. Justice Department investigation that alleged the company's top executives allowed ads for illegal pharmaceutical drugs to be distributed through its marketing network. Yet it is far and away the leader in online search and owns other widely used services such as Android and Chrome. "Until a company does something that personally impacts the consumer, this kind of bad behavior will only influence the decisions of customers for whom these are highly sensitive issues," said Maclyn Clouse, University of Denver's Daniels College of Business. □

Automakers aim to drive away car computer hackers

JUSTIN PRITCHARD

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Against the team of hackers, the poor car stood no chance.

Meticulously overwhelming its computer networks, the hackers showed that — given time — they would be able to pop the trunk and start the windshield wipers, cut the brakes or lock them up, and even kill the engine. Their motives were not malicious. These hackers worked on behalf of the U.S. military, which along with the auto industry is scrambling to fortify the cyber defenses

of commercially available cars before criminals and even terrorists penetrate them.

"You're stepping into a rolling computer now," said Chris Valasek, who helped catapult car hacking into the public eye when he and a partner revealed last year they had been able to control a 2010 Toyota Prius and 2010 Ford Escape by plugging into a port used by mechanics.

These days, when Valasek isn't working his day job for a computer security firm, he's seeing how Bluetooth might offer an entry point.

Automakers are betting heavily that consumers will want not just the maps and music playlists of today but also Internet-enabled vehicles that stream movies and the turn dictation into email. The federal government wants to require cars to send each other electronic messages warning of dangers on the road.

In these and other connections, hackers see opportunity.

There are no publicly known instances of a car being commandeered outside staged tests. In those tests, hackers prevail.

One was the Defense Department-funded assault on a 2012 model American-made car, overseen by computer scientist Kathleen Fisher.

Hackers demonstrated they could create the electronic equivalent of a skeleton key to unlock the car's networks. That may take months, Fisher said, but from there it would be "pretty easy to package up the smarts and make it available online, perhaps in a black-market type situation."

The project's goal is more than just to plug vulnerabilities — it is to reconceive the

most critical lines of computer code that control the car in a way that could make them invulnerable to some of the major known threats. The model code would be distributed to automakers, who could adapt it to their needs. That should take a few more years.

The industry is participating — and not waiting.

One major association representing brands including Honda and Toyota is helping establish an "information sharing and analysis center" patterned after efforts by big banks to try to thwart cyberattacks. □

Wall Street plows through records

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market eked out another record close Monday as investors remained confident that stimulus from central banks would revive global growth. Retail stocks rose ahead of the crucial holiday season. Stocks have surged following a slump that lasted from mid-September to mid-October. The rally has been driven by optimism that central banks in Europe, China and Japan will invigorate economic growth outside the U.S. "You clearly have momentum favoring stocks right now," said Russ Koesterich, chief investment strategist at Blackrock. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 5.91 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,069.41. The index has climbed for seven of the last eight days and is at an all-time high,

ban Outfitters and Gap. These stocks should benefit most if the consumers go on a spending spree this holiday season. Coach rose 95 cents, or 2.6 percent, to \$37.41 as analysts at Stifel reiterated their belief that the maker of luxury clothing and accessories is "doing the right things to reinvigorate the brand." The analysts believe that the stock's price could climb as high as \$47. The stock is down 32 percent for the year. Telecommunications stocks were among the day's biggest losers. Verizon and AT&T slumped after analysts at Citigroup published a gloomy review of the sector and predicted a tough year ahead for the two phone giants. Verizon fell 71 cents, or 1.4 percent, to \$49.50. Citigroup cut its outlook on the stock to "neutral," predicting that the compa-

ered a key interest rate and European Central Bank President Mario Draghi said he was willing to step up the bank's efforts to stimulate the region's struggling economy. Oil fell ahead of a crucial meeting in Vienna on Thursday of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Traders will be looking for a possible agreement to cut production to shore up prices. The price of crude has tumbled 26 percent since June as producers kept output stable while demand in Europe and other markets weakened. Benchmark U.S. crude fell 73 cents, or 1 percent, to \$75.78 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils used by many U.S. refineries, fell 68 cents to close at \$79.68 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange in London. In other energy



Trader Jason Harper, left, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Monday, Nov. 24, 2014. U.S. stocks rose in early trading in line with gains from Asian markets and thanks to improvement in German business confidence.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

having gained almost 12 percent this year. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 7.84 points, less than 0.1 percent, to 17,817.90. The Nasdaq composite gained 41.92 points, or 0.9 percent, to 4,754.89. On Monday, the gains were led by the so-called consumer discretionary sector, which includes retailers such as Coach, Ur-

ny's earnings will come in lower than most Wall Street analysts expect. Revenue growth at the big telecommunication companies could be crimped by more intense competition and higher prices for wireless spectrum. AT&T dropped 58 cents, or 1.6 percent, to \$34.70. Stocks were still riding momentum from Friday, when China's central bank low-

ered a key interest rate and European Central Bank President Mario Draghi said he was willing to step up the bank's efforts to stimulate the region's struggling economy. Oil fell ahead of a crucial meeting in Vienna on Thursday of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Traders will be looking for a possible agreement to cut production to shore up prices. The price of crude has tumbled 26 percent since June as producers kept output stable while demand in Europe and other markets weakened. Benchmark U.S. crude fell 73 cents, or 1 percent, to \$75.78 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils used by many U.S. refineries, fell 68 cents to close at \$79.68 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange in London. In other energy



This photo released by United Technologies of shows the company's Chief Financial Officer Greg Hayes, named to succeed CEO Louis Chenevert whose abrupt retirement was announced Monday, Nov. 24, 2014. Hayes has been with United Technologies, headquartered in Hartford, Conn., for 25 years.
(AP Photo/United Technologies)

United Technologies CEO retires, succeeded by CFO

STEPHEN SINGER
AP Business Writer

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Aerospace and building systems giant United Technologies announced Monday the abrupt retirement of CEO Louis Chenevert, and named Chief Financial Officer Greg Hayes to succeed him. Chenevert, 56, is also stepping down as chairman. He had been appointed to both jobs in 2008. He steered United Technologies' \$18.4 billion purchase of aerospace parts maker Goodrich Corp. in 2012. It was the industry's largest deal and boosted the company's presence in the profitable commercial airline business as its military segments declined. The company said he informed the board of directors that his retirement from both posts was effective immediately. Edward A. Kangas, lead independent director, has been elected non-executive chairman of the board. The 54-year-old Hayes has been with United Technologies for 25 years and has been chief financial officer for the past six years. Nicholas Heymann, an analyst at William Blair, said he could not explain the leadership change. He credited Chenevert with navigating the Goodrich purchase, which he called a "home run deal." "It was very well priced and

it helped not only enhance the aerospace business, it enhanced UTC's influence with key customers," he said.

He called Chenevert and Hayes the "yin and yang," with Chenevert being the "strategic visionary" and Hayes the operations executive.

Hayes joked about his reputation at an analyst's conference earlier this month. "I'm a finance guy, so I'm always going to be the naysayer on price," he said.

United Technologies is parent company of jet engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney, Sikorsky helicopter, Otis elevator and other aerospace and building systems companies.

The company grappled with several high-profile problems this year.

The Pentagon's entire fleet of nearly 100 F-35 fighter planes was grounded after an engine fire at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida on June 23. A Pentagon spokesman said inspections had not disclosed a systemic problem and defense officials believed the aircraft will return to full flight. In addition, Bombardier's CSeries test flight program was grounded May 30 following what Bombardier called an "engine-related incident" during testing. The problem was later identified as a leak from an engine oil seal. □

Atlantic City casino profits up in 3rd quarter

WAYNE PARRY

Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey

(AP) — Atlantic City's casino industry saw its operating profits rise in the third quarter of this year, helped by Internet gambling money and the absence of large losses racked up last year by weaker casinos. The casinos reported a gross operating profit of \$147.5 million in July, August and September, up

7.2 percent from the same period a year ago. Those numbers include comparisons with four casinos that have since closed, some of whom lost large sums in summer 2013.

The eight casinos currently operating in Atlantic City posted a gross operating profit of \$152.3 million in the third quarter, an increase of 3.4 percent. Gross operating profit reflects earnings before interest, taxes,

depreciation and other charges, and is a widely accepted indicator of profitability in the casino industry. The figures were released a day before the anniversary of Internet gambling in New Jersey. In the third quarter of last year, the 12 casinos that were operating at the time did not have the \$9 million to \$10 million a month that online betting has provided. But an even bigger factor in the

profit increase this summer was the absence of large losses racked up by casinos including Revel and The Atlantic Club — two of the four Atlantic City casinos that have shut down so far this year. A fifth, the Trump Taj Mahal, is scheduled to close Dec. 12.

In the third quarter of 2013, Revel posted an operating loss of \$23.5 million. Revel closed on Sept. 2; because of its shortened operation

in the third quarter of this year, its loss was only \$2.4 million. The Atlantic Club posted a \$1.7 million operating loss in the third quarter of 2013. It closed on Jan. 13, 2014 and thus did not operate in the third quarter of this year. Resorts Casino Hotel posted the largest increase in gross operating profit at \$4.9 million, up nearly 600 percent from the \$708,000 it earned in the third quarter of last year. □

Merck, Iowa firm sign Ebola vaccine licensing deal

LINDA A. JOHNSON

AP Business Writer

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)

— Merck & Co., a top creator and seller of vaccines, has joined the fight against Ebola, the often-fatal hemorrhagic virus that's been ravaging parts of West Africa for months. Merck, based in Whitehouse Station, New Jersey, said Monday it has entered a global partnership with a small U.S. drug developer to research and manufacture a potential Ebola vaccine now in initial patient testing. The exclusive deal involves rVSV-EBOV, a vaccine candidate under early development by BioProtection Systems, the vaccine-development subsidiary of NewLink Genetics Corp. of Ames, Iowa. It was created in labs of the Public Health Agency of Canada, which in 2010 signed a deal giving BioProtection Systems an exclusive license for the vac-

cine and the technology for producing it.

NewLink's vaccine is in the first phase of human testing, a study run by the U.S. National Institutes Of Health in healthy volunteers. It's meant to determine whether it stimulates their immune system to make antibodies against Ebola, and to spot any safety problems and help determine the best dosage. Other early-phase studies are to begin shortly in other countries.

Dr. Mark Feinberg, chief public health and science officer for Merck's vaccines division, said that the vaccine was shown to be very effective in preventing infections in nonhuman primates exposed to Ebola. Early next year, he said, the NIH and multiple public health and corporate partners are to begin late-stage testing of rVSV-EBOV, plus a second Ebola vaccine jointly developed by



In this photo, a Merck logo is placed on scientist's lab coat in West Point, Pa. Merck & Co., a top creator and seller of vaccines, has joined the fight against Ebola, the often-fatal hemorrhagic virus that's been ravaging parts of West Africa for months. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

Britain's GlaxoSmithKline PLC and the NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Detailed plans are being finalized, but that study should include about 30,000 participants — people at high risk of Ebola infection, including health

workers, household contacts of patients and people who bury deceased patients, because corpses are particularly infectious. Feinberg said they're aiming for very quick results, compared to the decade or so it normally takes to bring a vaccine or drug to

market.

Ebola, which has killed up to 90 percent of people infected in past outbreaks, is spread through contact with bodily fluids and causes sudden fever and muscle pain, followed by vomiting, diarrhea and sometimes internal and external bleeding. As of Friday, nearly 5,500 deaths and more than 15,000 infections had been reported, mainly in six African countries, according to the World Health Organization. "Effective Ebola vaccines will be a critical component of comprehensive prevention and control measures for people at risk of Ebola virus infection and to stem future outbreaks globally," Dr. Julie Gerberding, the president of Merck Vaccines and former head of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said in a statement. □

Redbox raising DVD rental rates by 25 percent

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

— Redbox is raising its DVD rental prices by 25 percent in an effort to wring more revenue from the shrinking audience that still watches movies on discs rather than online.

The increase announced Monday means the price to check out a DVD from one of Redbox's nearly 44,000 in-store kiosks will climb from \$1.20 per day to \$1.50 effective Dec. 2. Redbox's Blu-Ray rental rates

are jumping 33 percent, from \$1.50 per day to \$2. Video game lovers will be even harder hit beginning Jan. 6. That's when Redbox will begin charging \$3 per day to rent video games, a 50 percent increase from the current \$2.

Investors are betting most Redbox customers will shrug off the higher prices. The stock of Redbox's owner, Outerwall Inc., surged \$7.83, 12 percent, to close Monday at \$71.39 — the biggest one-day gain since February 2012.

Redbox is trying to cope with technology has spawned convenient alternatives that give consumers quick and easy access to thousands of movies and TV shows.

Those options include Netflix's \$9-per-month Internet video service, with 37 million U.S. subscribers, and various video-on-demand packages offered by cable- and satellite-TV providers.

Still, DVDs appeal to many people who want to rent movies shortly after the

end of their theatrical runs. Recently released movies are rarely licensed to Netflix and they typically cost \$5 to \$10 to watch through other video-on-demand options.

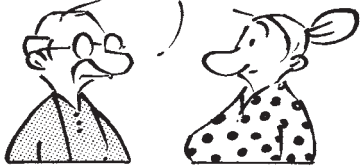
"Redbox remains the best value in new-release home entertainment," Outerwall CEO Scott Di Valerio said. Redbox last raised its DVD prices three years ago. By raising Redbox's prices again, Outerwall said it hopes to offset declines in the number of discs rented from its kiosks, which are

in supermarkets, pharmacies and other retail outlets. The Bellevue, Washington, company plans to provide a more detailed overview of the price increases in early February when it releases its fourth-quarter results.

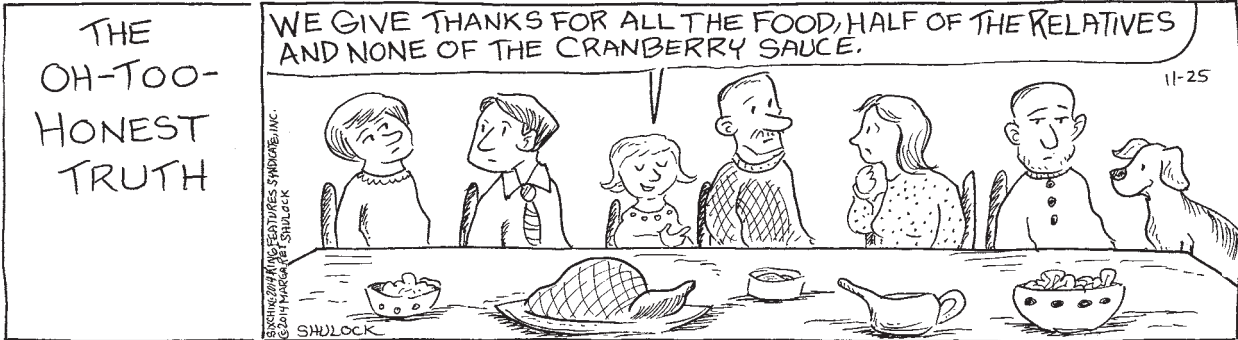
The shift away from DVDs already has dented Outerwall. The company's earnings plunged 59 percent to \$63 million during the first nine months of this year as sales at Redbox kiosks open for the past year dropped 6 percent. □

Mutts

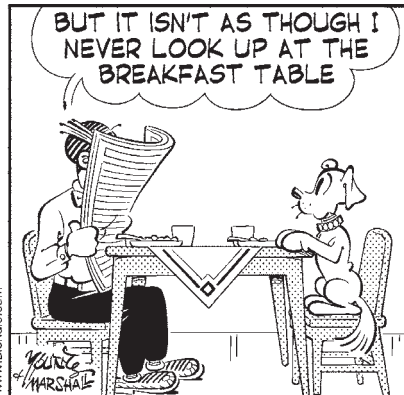
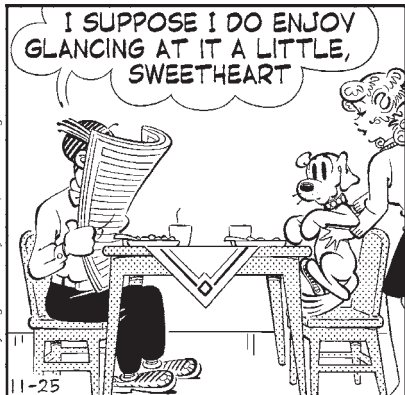
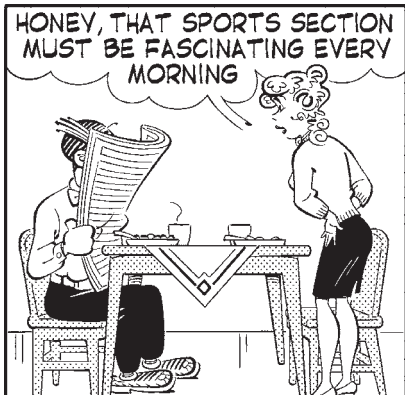
WHAT'S ON THE MENU FOR THANKSGIVING, MILLIE?



6 Chix



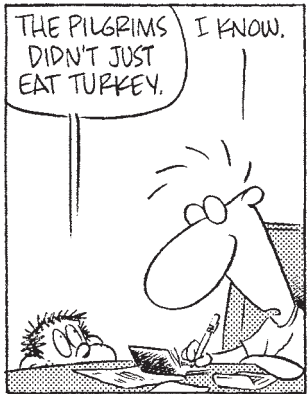
Blondie



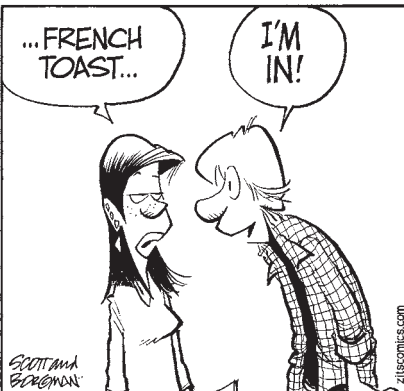
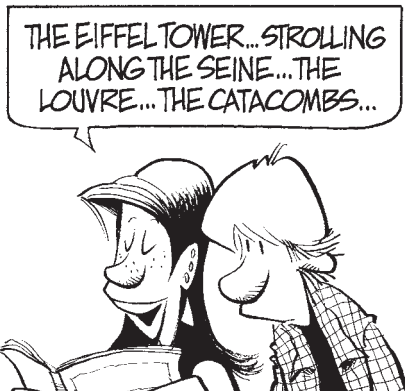
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		6	5	2	8			
	3						5	
			3					7
3				5		1		4
4			1		6			9
6		5		9				2
9					3			
	4						1	
			7	4	2	3		

Difficulty Level ★★

11/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

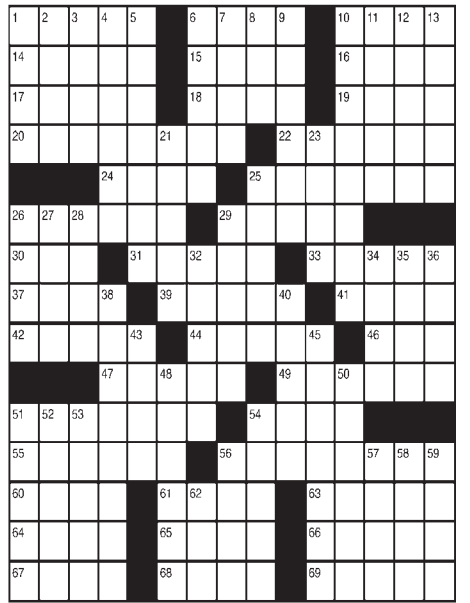
6	7	3	4	5	1	8	2	9
5	9	1	8	6	2	7	4	3
4	2	8	9	7	3	1	5	6
9	1	4	5	3	6	2	7	8
7	5	6	1	2	8	9	3	4
8	3	2	7	9	4	5	6	1
1	6	5	2	4	9	3	8	7
3	8	7	6	1	5	4	9	2
2	4	9	3	8	7	6	1	5

ACROSS

- Big
- Twirl
- Sulk
- Approximately
- Race loser of Aesop's fable
- Finished; done
- Piece of china
- Lofty poems
- TV producer Norman
- Guards
- In a ; hypnotized
- Loose ; unresolved issues
- " are the meek..."
- Lacking a sense of right and wrong
- Nourishes
- Chicken piece
- Allowed by law
- Looks for
- "Red Planet"
- AM/FM device
- Sensible
- Take illegally
- Adolescents
- Reasonable bedtime
- Relocated
- Talked back to
- Larry, Moe and Curly Joe
- Part of a three-piece suit
- "Hail Mary," for example
- Asphalt defects in a bad road
- Attract; entice
- Indian woman's wraparound
- Japanese dog
- Frosted a cake
- Secondhand
- Barbra Streisand film
- Koppel & Wass
- Utters
- Mex. misses
- Competent
- Reddish horse
- Groove along a street's edge
- Perpetual
- Loafers & heels
- Cushions
- Anger
- Settle into a comfy spot
- Thick syrup
- Large kitchen appliances
- Calmness
- Goofed
- Do-nothing
- Cincinnati team
- Misrepresent
- Charitable gift
- Beef or pork
- Villain
- away; vanished slowly
- Microsoft's Bill
- Dines
- Patella's place
- away; dismiss
- Sled dogs, often

DOWN

- Drinks like Fido



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/25/14

Monday's Puzzle Solved

APR	OVENS	SLAP
GLEE	DEVIL	CODE
BEAN	DRAKE	ENDS
ADDRESSEE	NEST	
LOSE	PHI	
ACCEPT	BREECHES	
CHASE	TEARS	ELK
MAPS	CHIPS	WADI
ERR	SHINS	LEVEE
SMIRKING	MITERS	
HAL	SEAL	
EDGY	DOCTORATE	
BRAT	INLAW	NEAT
BATH	STOKE	DASH
STEM	HOPED	STY

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11/25/14

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 40 First stage | 53 Rowed |
| 43 Theater box | 54 Empty spaces |
| 45 Swaggers | 56 Hunted animal |
| 48 Vs., | 57 Dryer residue |
| unabbreviated | 58 Singer |
| 50 One who feeds a furnace | James |
| 51 up; divide | 59 Mineo & others |
| 52 Cease-fire | 62 As busy bee |

When the Workday Ends; More Fathers Are Heading to the Kitchen

RACHEL L. SWARNS

© 2014 New York Times

NEW YORK - Sometimes, Joe Kreisberg ponders the question during his morning commute. Sometimes, he considers it at his desk at an advertising agency in Manhattan or on his afternoon stroll for a caffeinated pick-me-up.

"It's kind of in the back of my mind all day," said Kreisberg, 35, describing that perennial working parents' quandary: What will I cook for the family tonight? "I'm thinking about the ingredients. I'm thinking about what I have in the fridge." He hops on the subway back home to Queens around 5 p.m., dashes to the day care center to pick up his 7-month-old son, Harrison, and often squeezes in a run to the grocery store. Finally, he gets into the kitchen. Soon, he is roasting a chicken stuffed with rosemary, thyme and onion, or seasoning some fresh salmon or frying up eggplant for parmigiana.

Kreisberg is a freelance copywriter, a husband and a father. He is also a member of what he and other men describe as an often overlooked portion of the population: the growing number of working dads who cook.

"We do a lot more than barbecue," Kreisberg said wryly.

Kreisberg got in touch with me this month when I invited working parents to join an online conversation about the challenges of juggling hectic work schedules and family dinners. In my column, I ended up quoting only working mothers - many more women responded to my query than men - and some readers protested.

"It really frustrates me that this is so often framed as a women's issue," said Natalie Pacholl, the mother of a 3-year-old who lives in Vancouver, Washington, and works for a high-tech manufacturing company. "Where are the dads in most of these discussions?" Michael M. Rooke-Ley, a

retired law professor in Eugene, Oregon, echoed those concerns, noting that "a 1950s ethic still prevails" at times, even when both parents work.

"In these outposts of gender-based tradition," Rooke-Ley said, "Dad needs to get off the couch!"

Kreisberg would like you to know that he and many other fathers are already off the couch. Statistics bear him out. While women are cooking much less than they did in the 1960s, men are cooking much more.

A study published last year by researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill showed that the percentage of men who spent time cooking on any given day jumped to 42 percent in 2008 from 29 percent in 1965. (As more women joined the workforce, the percentage who cooked dropped during that period to 68 percent from 92 percent.)

Women still spend more than twice as much time preparing meals than men on an average day, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. But I have to agree with Kreisberg when he points out that fathers are clearly spending more time in the kitchen than they used to. Some cook a couple of days a week or on the weekends. Others embrace the bulk of the work. I'm talking about men like Derek Hartwick, a 55-year-old rowing coach who lives in Highland Park, New Jersey, and cooks about five times a week for his wife and two sons.

He and his wife both work full time, but Hartwick gets home earlier, so he handles dinner, serving up dishes like pasta with shrimp scampi, breaded chicken and homemade pizzas where everyone picks their own toppings.

It can be a struggle, he said, working full time and preparing home-cooked meals while also offering homework help and volunteering as a soccer coach.

"Sometimes we're successful; sometimes we're not," Hartwick said. "But we try to make a conscious effort. We feel like it's important to have some time to sit down together over a meal."

Lorin Wertheimer, a 44-year-old television producer and father of two, cooks his family's meals for the week on Saturdays and Sundays. He juggles family outings with time in the kitchen where he prepares chicken, stews, chili and vegetables for the workdays ahead.

"I believe in an equal share of housework," said Wertheimer, who lives in Brooklyn. "It's a way in which I can pull my weight."

Kreisberg, who has a shaved head, a beard and tattoos, said that people were sometimes surprised to learn that he is the primary cook in his household.

"He's kind of tough looking and rugged," said his wife, Amy, who works full time for a pharmaceutical company and does the dishes after dinner. "But he loves to cook. I feel really lucky."

Managing the evening scramble is not easy, Kreisberg said. But it is one of the many ways that he cares for his family and serves as a role model for his baby boy, who often watches him cooking from a high chair. □

Classifieds

TIMESHARE FOR SALE

RENAISSANCE (one bedroom)

Week	room	price
23	343	\$4200
27	103	\$3750
30	515	\$4600
37	332	\$2000
42	103	\$6000
15	327	\$6500
37/38	548	\$5750
19	547	\$5000

LA CABANA

Week 47 room 237B \$1.500

PARADISE BEACH VILLAS

Week 29 room 129, 2 bedroom \$5.500

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24/7

U.S. report: Grouse needs wider buffer from drilling

MATTHEW BROWN
Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) -- A government report with significant implications for the U.S. energy industry says a struggling bird species needs a 3-mile buffer between its breeding grounds and oil and gas drilling, wind farms and solar projects.

The study comes as the Obama administration weighs new protections for the greater sage grouse. The ground-dwelling, chicken-sized birds range across 11 western states and two Canadian provinces.

A 3-mile buffer for the birds represents a much larger area than the no-occupancy zones where drilling and other activity is prohibited under some state and federal land management plans.

However, those plans also contain more nuanced provisions, which backers say will protect sage grouse, such as seasonal restrictions on drilling or other activity and limits on the number of oil and gas wells within key sage grouse habitat.

Some wildlife advocates say too much energy development is being allowed, undermining efforts to help grouse. Such opposition could be bolstered by Friday's U.S. Geological Survey report.

The USGS made no management recommendations, and agency scientists said the buffer distances were for guidance only.

Greater sage grouse populations dropped sharply in recent decades due to disease, pressure from the energy industry, wildfires and other factors.

Now state and federal officials are scrambling to come up with conserva-

tion measures to protect the grouse ahead of a court-ordered September 2015 decision on protections.

A related bird, the Gunnison sage grouse of Utah and Colorado, received federal protection as a threatened species on Nov. 12. An adviser for Colorado Gov. John Hicken-

BLM spokesman Jeff Krauss said the agency will use the new information as it works on changes to land use plans that include new sage grouse conservation measures.

The report said a minimum buffer extending to a 3.1-mile radius around sage grouse breeding sites would provide consider-

The state plans also limit human activity within a larger area around breeding and nesting seasons. And they take into account cumulative impacts, such as a restriction in Wyoming that limits oil companies to one well pad per square mile in key habitat. That keeps sage grouse habitat intact, Wyoming Petroleum Asso-

gas, those have been found to immediately drive out leks if they're too close." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife has determined that Wyoming's sage grouse plan - used as a template for Montana's - is protective of the bird, agency spokesman Theodore Stein said. Krauss, the BLM spokesman, pointed out that the



This July 26, 2014 photo provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shows a Greater Sage Grouse at the Seedskaadee National Wildlife Refuge in Wyoming.
Associated Press

looper said Friday that the state plans to challenge the decision in court.

The USGS report on the more-common greater sage grouse represents a compilation of scientific studies aimed at seeing what it takes to protect the bird.

It was requested by the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management, which oversees millions of acres of sage grouse habitat and regulates the energy industry across much of the West.

able protections for the bird. That radius would equal a circle around the leks covering 30 square miles.

The report suggests a maximum buffer of 5 miles.

By comparison, Montana and Wyoming have adopted management plans for the bird that call for a no-surface occupancy zone of six-tenths of a mile around breeding sites, or leks, in key sage grouse habitat. That's an area of slightly more than one square mile.

ciation Vice President Esther Wagner said.

"That reduces (habitat) fragmentation, which is what it all comes down to," Wagner said. "It's working here."

But Steve Holmer, a senior policy adviser for the American Bird Conservancy, said larger no occupancy areas around leks are needed if sage grouse populations are to survive. "There really needs to be a hard and fast rule about no occupancy," he said. "When it comes to oil and

report offered a range of buffer distances. "There is no single number for an appropriate buffer distance for any particular type of disturbance," he said.

Land managers also need to take into consideration local conditions across the grouse's sprawling, 257,000-square-mile habitat, USGS senior science adviser Carol Schuler said. Friday's buffer recommendation was meant to offer a reference point as more localized decisions are made, she said. □

Broadway-bound magician shows what's up his sleeve

MARK KENNEDY
JOHN CARUCCI

AP Entertainment Writers
NEW YORK (AP) — One grew up idolizing Harry Houdini. The other worshipped David Copperfield. Now they're both in a place known more for jazz hands than sleight of hand. Italy's star escape artist Andrew Basso and American Adam Trent, who focuses on technology-based tricks, are two of the seven magicians set to play Broadway this winter in the show "The Illusionists." It will run at the Marriott Marquis Theatre from Nov. 26-Jan. 4.

"It's been almost 20 years since magic has been on Broadway. To me, it's been long overdue. But maybe it's been gone for a reason. It's been waiting for something like this," Trent said. The rest of the lineup includes Belgium's weapon specialist Aaron Crow, campy magician Jeff Hobson, illusionist and "America's Got Talent" veteran Kevin James, macabre specialist Dan Sperry and Yu Ho-Jin, a Korean who just won the title of "Magician of the Year."



This photo provided by DKC Public Relations shows Andrew Basso, center, in a scene from the Broadway show, "The Illusionists," in New York.

The goal is to do with magic what Cirque du Soleil did with circus — get rid of the dated lions and sequins and make it adult, sophisticated fun. The show has a throbbing rock beat and intelligent pacing.

Basso and Trent stopped by The Associated Press to tease their upcoming show. On camera, Trent made a bunch of playing cards ap-

pear and disappear, took a bite out of one only for it to instantly return and set a lighter label on fire. Basso told a story of once getting much too close to fire himself.

A few years ago, Basso was shackled in an explosive-rigged wooden coffin and had 60 seconds to escape before a speeding car crashed the coffin. "I need-

ed 55 seconds to escape." Well, the car crashed and he escaped, but the blast was 10 times bigger than it had been at rehearsal, for still-unknown reasons. Basso suffered severe burns. But "I will not stop doing it," he vowed.

In the show, Basso will recreate Houdini's famous Water Torture Cell — he'll be put face-first into a tank of wa-

ter with his feet manacled. This time, though, there will be no covers on the tank to hide any tricks.

Trent, who grew up in Boulder, Colorado, wearing out VHS tapes of Copperfield TV specials, calls himself "The Futurist" because he likes to mix comedy, technology and music into his act, something the old school of magic has resisted.

The world of magic is "going through extreme growing pains," he said. "A lot of the young guys want to present it in a fresh way and a lot of the older guys think it should stay a certain way."

Trent said innovation in magic is slow, partly because magicians are loath to reveal their new techniques or tricks. "The same basic principles in magic are used over and over again but they're dressed up differently," he said.

"So whether it's a card trick or you make that card an iPhone, it's the same exact sleight of hand. But when you change the object and present it differently, it does become something new."

Associated Press

Katy Perry to perform at NFL Super Bowl show

MESFIN FEKADU
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL announced late Sunday — after rumors swirled for weeks — that pop star Katy Perry will headline the Pepsi Super Bowl halftime show on Feb. 1.

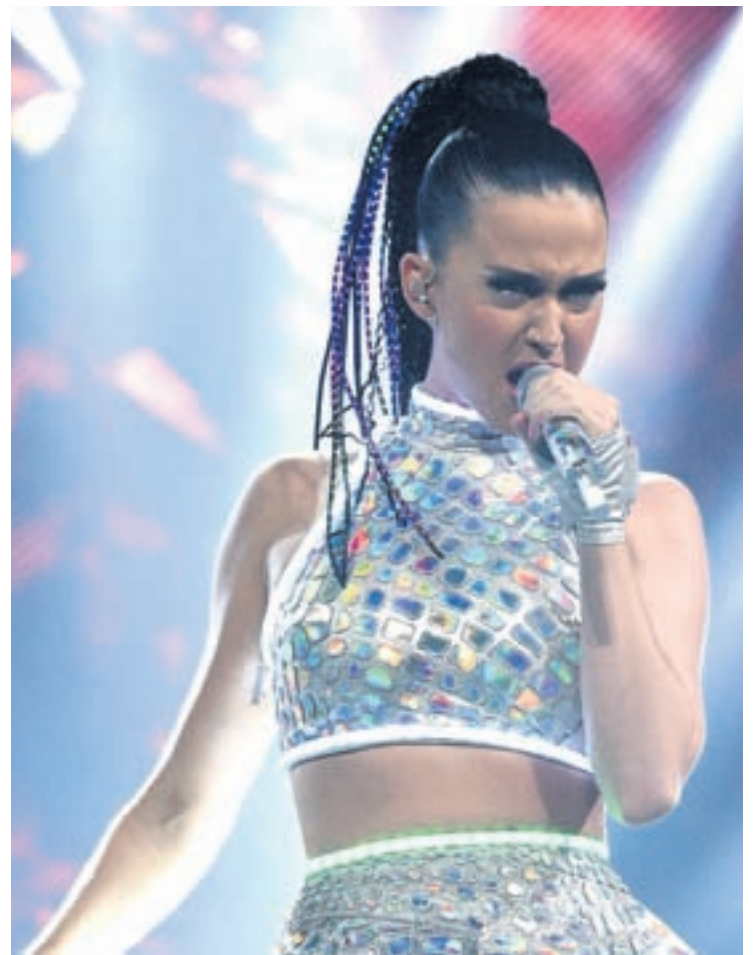
Perry, 30, has dominated the Billboard charts since releasing her debut in 2008, including nine No. 1 hits on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. Her sophomore effort, 2010's multiplatinum "Teenage Dream," matched the record Michael Jackson set with "Bad" for most songs from a single album to hit No. 1 with five.

Perry released "Prism," another platinum effort, last year. It includes the No. 1 smashes "Roar" and "Dark Horse."

The Super Bowl, which will air on NBC, decides the National Football League's champions, a media extravaganza that is America's most-watched TV event. The Grammy-nominated star's upcoming performance at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Arizona is the fourth consecutive halftime show to display the NFL's push to include younger acts on its large stage: Bruno Mars had a show-stopping set at this year's Super Bowl at the MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey; Beyoncé electrified in 2013 in New Orleans; and there was Madonna, with Nicki Minaj and M.I.A., and the Black Eyed Peas in 2012 and 2011, respectively. Other halftime performers

in the last decade have included the Rolling Stones, Prince, Tom Petty, Bruce Springsteen and the Who. The girl-power singer will also be performing at the culmination of a season where critics have assailed the NFL for its response to domestic violence cases involving women; its initial handling of former Baltimore Ravens star Ray Rice's assault on his then-fiancee with just a two-game suspension caused a national outrage, and led the league to toughen its penalties for such crimes. It later suspended Rice indefinitely.

Perry is on her Prismatic World Tour. Her other hits include "I Kissed a Girl," "California Gurls," "Firework" and "Wide Awake."



In this Sept. 16, 2014 file photo, Katy Perry performs on stage at "The Prismatic World Tour" at the Honda Center in Anaheim, Calif.

Associated Press



This undated file photo shows Nobel laureate Gabriel Garcia Marquez at an undisclosed location. The University of Texas' Harry Ransom Center has acquired Marquez's archive. The writer died on April 17, 2014.

Associated Press

Garcia Marquez archive goes to University of Texas

WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The archive of celebrated Colombian novelist and Nobel laureate Gabriel Garcia Marquez has been acquired by the University of Texas — meaning the critic of U.S. foreign policy is having his papers end up in a country he wasn't always too fond of.

The Harry Ransom Center, a top literary archive located on the university's Austin campus, announced Monday that the collection spans more than 50 years and features original manuscript material for 10 books, including Garcia Marquez's acclaimed 1967 novel, "One Hundred Years of Solitude."

Also included are drafts of Garcia Marquez's acceptance speech for his 1982 Nobel Prize in Literature and 2,000 pieces of correspondence, such as letters to novelists Carlos Fuentes and Graham Greene. There are also typewriters and computers used by Garcia Marquez, who lived most of his life in Mexico City and died there in April at age 87.

Most of the collection is in Spanish. The center plans to digitize part of it eventually to increase accessibility to the university community.

"The University of Texas at Austin — with expertise in both Latin America and

the preservation and study of the writing process — is the natural home for this very important collection," University of Texas President Bill Powers said in a statement.

The university said Monday it bought the collec-

Bill Weir's new CNN series to begin in 2015



This May 2013 publicity image released by ABC shows Bill Weir of the ABC News magazine show "The Lookout," in New York.

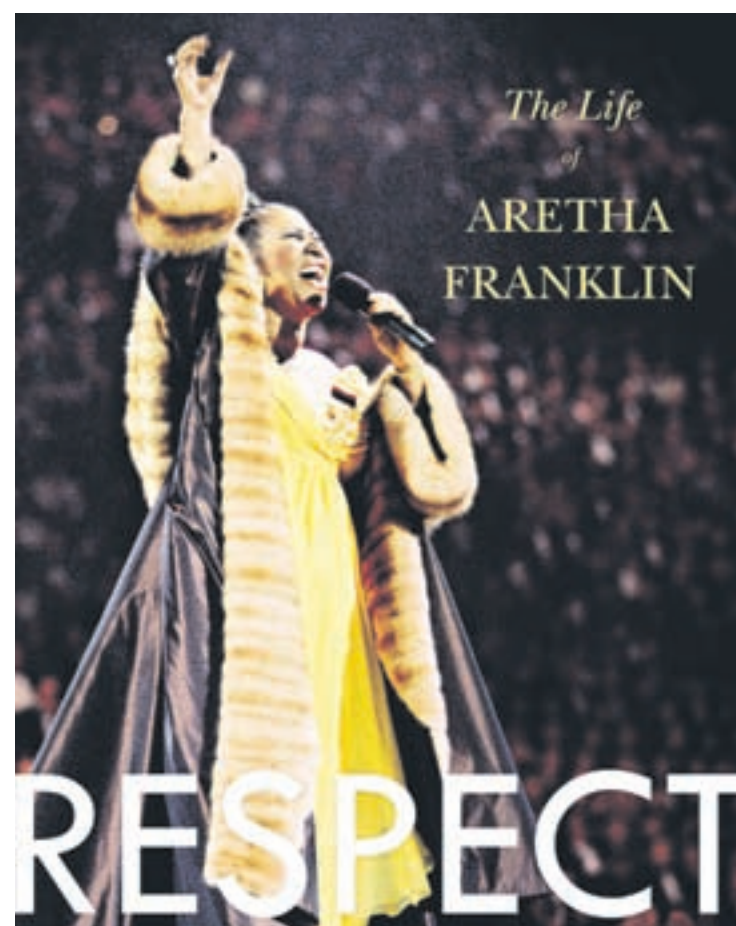
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Bill Weir's new series on CNN will entail a lot of travel. CNN said Monday the former ABC newsman will host "The Wonder List" starting next year. The series will be about people, places and cultures at a crossroad.

The last person to see a Bengal tiger in the wild or hike a glacier in Montana may actually be alive today, given the rate of planetary change. Weir said the series will examine the reasons for that and also take viewers to places like the Dead Sea; Venice, Italy; and Africa.

CNN said "The Wonder List" will debut with eight episodes in prime time early in the year. □

Aretha Franklin blasts author of unauthorized bio



This book cover image released by Little Brown and Company shows "Respect: The Life of Aretha Franklin," a biography by David Ritz.

Associated Press

MESFIN FEKADU
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Queen of Soul says don't waste your money — or soul — on the recently released unauthorized biography about her.

In a statement, Aretha Franklin called David Ritz's "Respect: The Life of Aretha Franklin," a "trashy book." The two have a history of collaborating: Franklin and award-winning Ritz worked together on her 1999 biography, "Aretha: From These Roots." He also won a Grammy Award for best album notes for his work on Franklin's 1992 box set, "Queen of Soul: The Atlantic Recordings."

"As many of you are aware, there is a very trashy book out there full of lies and more lies about me. ... (The writer's) actions are obviously vindictive because I edited out some crazy statements he had the gall to try and put in my book written 15 years ago," the statement read. "Evidently,

he has been carrying this hatred ever since."

In "Respect," Ritz writes about Franklin as teenage parent, her own parents' separation, her battle with alcohol and more.

"The sensitive questions — Aretha's mother leaving family, Aretha having two babies while still in her teens, Aretha being beaten by her first husband ... were off-limits," Ritz writes in his new book about working with Franklin for their 1999 effort. "In my view, my two years of working on 'From These Roots' resulted in my failure to actualize the great potential in Aretha's narration. I didn't do what I set out to do."

Ritz has written a number of biographies, ranging from Etta James to Rick James to Ray Charles. He has won the Ralph Gleason Music Book Award four times, and last year he received the ASCAP Timothy White Award for outstanding musical biography for the Buddy Guy book. □

Love and Gravity



DAVID BROOKS
© 2014 New York Times

Most Hollywood movies are about romantic love, or at least sex. But Christopher Nolan's epic movie "Interstellar" has almost no couples, so you don't get the charged romance you have in normal movies where a man and a woman are off saving the world.

Instead, there are the slightly different kinds of love, from generation to generation, and across time and space.

The movie starts on a farm, and you see a grandfather's love for his grandkids and the children's love for their father. (Mom had died sometime earlier).

The planet is hit by an environmental catastrophe, and, in that crisis, lives are torn apart. The father, played by Matthew McConaughey, goes off into space to find a replacement planet where humanity might survive. The movie is propelled by the angry love of his abandoned daughter, who loves and rages at him for leaving, decade after decade.

On top of that, there is an even more attenuated love. It's the love that humans have for their ancestors and the love they have for the unborn. In the movie, 12 apostles go out alone into space to look for habitable planets. They are sacrificing their lives so that canisters of frozen embryos can be born again in some place far away.

Nolan wants us to see the magnetic force of these attachments: the way attachments can exert a gravitational pull on people who are separated by vast distances or even by death. Their attention is riveted by the beloved. They hunger for reunion.

When the McConaughey character goes into space he leaves behind the rules of everyday earthly life and enters the realm of quantum mechanics and relativity. Gravity becomes variable. It's different on different planets. Space bends in on itself. The astronauts fly through a wormhole, a fold in the universe connecting one piece of space with another distant piece.

Most important, time changes speed. McConaughey is off to places where time is moving much more slowly than it is on Earth, so he ends up younger than his daughter. Once in the place of an ancestor, he becomes, effectively, her descendant.

These plotlines are generally based on real science. The physicist Kip Thorne has a book out, "The Science of Interstellar," explaining it all. But what matters in the movie is the way science and emotion (and a really loud score) mingle to create a powerful mystical atmosphere.

Nolan introduces the concept of quantum entanglement. That's when two particles that have interacted with each other behave as one even though they might be far apart. He then shows how people in love display some of those same features. They react in the same way at the same time to the same things.

The characters in the movie are frequently experiencing cross-cutting and mystical connections that transcend time and space. It's like the kind of transcendent sensation you or I might have if we visited an old battlefield and felt connected by mystic chords of memory to the people who fought there long ago; or if we visited the house we grew up in and felt in deep communion with people who are now dead. Bloggers have noticed the religious symbols in the movie. There are those 12 apostles, and there's a Noah's Ark. There is a fallen angel named Dr. Mann who turns satanic in an inverse Garden of Eden. The space project is named Lazarus. The heroine saves the world at age 33. There's an infinitely greater and incorporated intelligence offering merciful salvation.

But this isn't an explicitly religious movie. "Interstellar" is important because amid all the culture wars between science and faith and science and the humanities, the movie illustrates the real symbiosis between these realms. More, it shows how modern science is influencing culture. People have always bent their worldviews around the latest scientific advances. After Newton, philosophers conceived a clockwork universe. Individuals were seen as cogs in a big machine and could be slotted into vast bureaucratic systems.

But in the era of quantum entanglement and relativity, everything looks emergent and interconnected. Life looks less like a machine and more like endlessly complex patterns of waves and particles. Vast social engineering projects look less promising, because of the complexity, but webs of loving and meaningful relationships can do amazing good.

As the poet Christian Wiman wrote in his masterpiece, "My Bright Abyss," "If quantum entanglement is true, if related particles react in similar or opposite ways even when separated by tremendous distances, then it is obvious that the whole world is alive and communicating in ways we do not fully understand. And we are part of that life, part of that communication. ..."

I suspect "Interstellar" will leave many people with a radical openness to strange truth just below and above the realm of the everyday. That makes it something of a cultural event. □



In America, Suffer Little Children



PAUL KRUGMAN
© 2014 New York Times

The Tenement Museum, on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, is one of my favorite places in New York City. It's a Civil War-vintage building that housed successive waves of immigrants, and a number of apartments have been restored to look exactly as they did in various eras, from the 1860s to the 1930s (when the building was declared unfit for occupancy). When you tour the museum, you come away with a powerful sense of immigration as a human experience, which - despite plenty of bad times, despite a cultural climate in which Jews, Italians, and others were often portrayed as racially inferior - was overwhelmingly positive. I get especially choked up about the Baldizzi apartment from 1934. When I described its layout to my parents, both declared, "I grew up in that apartment!" And today's immigrants are the same, in aspiration and behavior, as my grandparents were - people seeking a better life, and by and large finding it.

That's why I enthusiastically support President Barack Obama's new immigration initiative. It's a simple matter of human decency.

That's not to say that I, or most progressives, support open borders. You can see one important reason right there in the Baldizzi apartment: the photo of FDR on the wall. The New Deal made America a vastly better place, yet it probably wouldn't have

been possible without the immigration restrictions that went into effect after World War I. For one thing, absent those restrictions, there would have been many claims, justified or not, about people flocking to America to take advantage of welfare programs.

Furthermore, open immigration meant that many of America's worst-paid workers weren't citizens and couldn't vote. Once immigration restrictions were in place, and immigrants already here gained citizenship, this disenfranchised class at the bottom shrank rapidly, helping to create the political conditions for a stronger social safety net. And, yes, low-skill immigration probably has some depressing effect on wages, although the available evidence suggests that the effect is quite small.

So there are some difficult issues in immigration policy. I like to say that if you don't feel conflicted about these issues, there's something wrong with you. But one thing you shouldn't feel conflicted about is the proposition that we should offer decent treatment to children who are already here - and are already Americans in every sense that matters. And that's what Obama's initiative is about.

Who are we talking about? First, there are more than a million young people in this country who came - yes, illegally - as children and have lived here ever since. Second, there are large numbers of children who were born here - which makes them U.S. citizens, with all the same rights you and I have - but whose parents came illegally, and are legally subject to being deported.

What should we do about these people and their families? There are some forces in our political life who want us to bring out the iron fist - to seek out and deport young residents who weren't born here but have never known

another home, to seek out and deport the undocumented parents of American children and force those children either to go into exile or to fend for themselves.

But that isn't going to happen, partly because, as a nation, we aren't really that cruel; partly because that kind of crack-down would require something approaching police-state rule; and, largely, I'm sorry to say, because Congress doesn't want to spend the money that such a plan would require. In practice, undocumented children and the undocumented parents of legal children aren't going anywhere. The real question, then, is how we're going to treat them. Will we continue our current regime of malign neglect, denying them ordinary rights and leaving them under the constant threat of deportation? Or will we treat them as the fellow Americans they already are?

The truth is that sheer self-interest says that we should do the humane thing. Today's immigrant children are tomorrow's workers, taxpayers and neighbors. Condemning them to life in the shadows means that they will have less stable home lives than they should, be denied the opportunity to acquire skills and education, contribute less to the economy, and play a less positive role in society. Failure to act is just self-destructive.

But speaking for myself, I don't care that much about the money, or even the social aspects. What really matters, or should matter, is the humanity. My parents were able to have the lives they did because America, despite all the prejudices of the time, was willing to treat them as people. Offering the same kind of treatment to today's immigrant children is the practical course of action, but it's also, crucially, the right thing to do. So let's applaud the president for doing it. □

Black Friday Campouts: As Traditional as Turkey

JAMES B. STEWART

© 2014 New York Times

By spreading its doorbuster specials over five days this year, Wal-Mart may have thought it was sounding the death knell for the annual shopping frenzy known as Black Friday.

After all, in the era of one-click Internet shopping, who really wants to wait in line overnight, or even multiple days and nights, to get first crack at the deep-

mond, the pre-Black Friday line has become a Thanksgiving tradition that's every bit as important - and more fun - than the turkey dinner. "It's like a tailgate party at a football game," De Armond told me this week. "We barbecue every night. We invite people in; we've made new friends."

And he and his teammates and his two sons will be sitting down for a traditional turkey dinner - inside the

of 1929.

Research by a member of the American Dialect Society, Bonnie Taylor-Blake, suggests that black was first applied to the day after Thanksgiving by the Philadelphia police to describe the traffic jams afflicting Philadelphia's downtown shopping district in the early 1960s.

In an effort to put a more positive spin on it, retailers campaigned to rename it

out. It's an experience. But for people who don't want to stand in lines, or want to shop online, there are going to be more opportunities to score deals."

As is the case for many Americans, Black Friday brings out De Armond's competitive streak, which is one of the reasons retailers offer only a limited number of their best deals.

Four years ago, he arrived at 6 p.m. for a midnight

waiting in line into something akin to performance art. This year, his tent has three rooms and is equipped with air-conditioning, a screened porch, a hammock, a 42-inch flat screen TV, a tiki bar and a fully decorated Christmas tree. "We've kind of gone crazy wild with it," De Armond said. The only creature comfort lacking is a bathroom - De Armond still has to shower at home.

He said a few people had taunted him, saying he should get a job, but he has one as a press operator at The News-Press in Fort Myers. He leaves the holiday encampment for work. (His team must have a member present 24 hours a day to hold their place.)

The deals De Armond is aiming for seem almost an afterthought: He's going for an iPad Air 2 for \$399 (list price \$499) and a Panasonic 50-inch LED TV for \$199 (list price \$799.99). The iPad is a gift for one of his sons, and he plans to donate the television to a local children's hospital for a fundraising raffle.

One reason he chose Best Buy, he said, is that the store hands out vouchers shortly before the store opens, guaranteeing availability. That eliminates any need for the kind of stampede that has put shoppers at risk of injury. "At Best Buy there's no reason to fight over anything," De Armond said.

A Best Buy spokesman confirmed that chain employees would hand out tickets to people in line starting about two hours before stores open. This weekend, the chain is staging Black Friday simulations so employees can practice. "We're committed to the safety of our customers and employees," Jeff Shelman, the spokesman, said.

Best Buy is also committed to the concept of Black Friday, and is featuring some its best deals - like the iPad and Panasonic TV De Armond wants - from 5 p.m. Thursday to 1 a.m. Friday. Stores will then close and reopen at 8 a.m. with a new set of deals. □



Derek De Armond, who set up a tent at 10 a.m. on Nov. 11, more than two weeks before Thanksgiving, outside his tent at Best Buy in Fort Myers, Fla. For consumers like DeArmond, the pre-Black Friday line has become a Thanksgiving tradition that's every bit as important — and more fun — than the turkey dinner.

(Corey Perrine/The New York Times)

est discounts? Derek De Armond, that's who.

De Armond, 55, set up a tent at 10 a.m. on Nov. 11, more than two weeks before Thanksgiving. He and three teammates, who rotate through the tent to hold their place, are first in a growing line outside a Best Buy in Fort Myers, Florida, that will open its doors at 5 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day.

Critics of the Black Friday shopping frenzy and early store openings on Thanksgiving have complained that they threaten the traditional holiday.

But for consumers like De Ar-

mond, the pre-Black Friday line has become a Thanksgiving tradition that's every bit as important - and more fun - than the turkey dinner. "It's like a tailgate party at a football game," De Armond told me this week. "We barbecue every night. We invite people in; we've made new friends."

And he and his teammates and his two sons will be sitting down for a traditional turkey dinner - inside the tent. One son will be home from military service in Afghanistan. The other, a high school student, "is embarrassed and doesn't want any part of this, but he'll be here for dinner," De Armond said. De Armond dismissed Wal-Mart's efforts to diminish the importance of Black Friday, which has thrived despite previous attempts by retailers to change or rebrand it. After all, "black," when used as an adjective affixed to a day of the week, hardly has a positive connotation - it has traditionally applied to catastrophes like the stock market crash

"Big" Friday, but when that failed to stick, they floated the apocryphal notion that it's the day when retailers begin to show a profit.

Despite the efforts of Wal-Mart and some other retailers, "Black Friday is always going to be Black Friday," said Melissa Martin, a spokeswoman for Black-Friday.com, an Internet site that De Armond consulted to identify this year's best deals. "It's not going away. It's a tradition in my family to get together and head out shopping on Black Friday, and I think that's the case for many people. A lot of people love camping

Thanksgiving opening, and found hundreds of people ahead of him. The next year, he arrived a day early, and still wasn't able to get the advertised doorbusters. Two years ago, he put up a pup tent.

This year, he made camp earlier than ever, determined to stake out a position at the head of the line. "People have tried to slide in ahead of me, but I'm basically sending the message, don't even try," De Armond said.

Much as the Pilgrims overcame adversity, De Armond has elevated the usually mundane task of